NOTHING NEW

an installation & catalog featuring
66 Immigrant & Queer Artists curated by
Bushra Gill & Jason Wyman / Queerly Complex

FEBRUARY 15 TO MARCH 16, 2025

465 COLLECTIVE: SPACE
465 S. VAN NESS, SF

Addy Gravatte, Alan Tello, Alvin Ortiz, Amirra Malak, Andrea Fuenzalida, Angelica Full Moon, Anita Sulimanovic, Areem Rose, Arthur Jackson V, Ash Phillips, Badri Valian, BEARPAD (Patrick Stephenson & Jordan Fickel), Bushra Gill, Crystal Mason, Daniel Tofach, Davey Faye, David Maldonado, Desiree Darling, Tiana McGuire & Lindsey Kincaid, Devon Devine, Dorian Katz, eli vasquez, Elizabeth Estrada, Elle Lim-Chan, Gerardo Gama, Ginger Yifan Chen, Gisela Insuaste, Hamza Kubba, Idalia Ramos, Jacquelyn Salgado, Jason Wyman / Queerly Complex, Jasper R. Rush, Jaylene Cabrera, Jeremiah Pfeffer, Julian Parikh, Kateryna Ferman, Katina Papson, Kevin McDonald, Kevin Simmonds, Kirthi Nath, Koko G, Lea McGeever, Lena Lee, Lesha Maria Rodriguez, Marcella Sanchez, Marin Carr-Quimet, Mark McBeth, Mason J, Michael Kerschner, Midori, Neut, Nitya Narasimhan, Peter Max Lawrence, Retura, Rhea Joseph, Sabriaya Shipley, Scott Sessions, somer taylor, Soni Laughlin, Stellan Knowles, Taneesh Kaur, Taryn Kearns, Vera Ostroumova, Vic Welle, Wang Yiming, Wasay, YouBeen Kim

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2025

CURATORIAL STATEMENT

Immigrants and Queers have been, are, and will always be here. There is no past nor future without us. We exist because people move by force, necessity, and (sometimes) choice, and sexuality / gender are complex (not binary), regardless of what dominant society legislates or social norms dictate. Our positionality to domination affirms our struggles are linked. We are comrades, and this is **NOTHING NEW**.

Frequently, in times of political upheaval, art, stories, songs, dances, rituals, and traditions become targets of erasure. It is a form of censorial annihilation meant to ensure future generations know little to nothing about their forebears. For if even a breadcrumb were to remain, our descendants will have the tools to liberate their beings from domination. This, too, is **NOTHING NEW**.

Right here, right now we – Immigrant and / or Queer Artists – are under direct political attack. Co-creating tactics and ways to gather, preserve, and promulgate our art, stories, songs, dances, and rituals is a means of survival, organizing, and resistance. It is a tradition we have always done for gathering our people together around the fire to talk story is **NOTHING NEW**.

NOTHING NEW is an Installation & Art Catalog curated by Bushra Gill & Jason Wyman / Queerly Complex celebrating 66 Immigrant and / or Queer artists of diverse cultures, traditions, practices, disciplines, generations, and origins.

Immgrant and / or Queer Artists of any discipline / practice / tradition from anywhere in the world were invited to submit **NO NEW WORKS** and **NO NEW WORDS**. Every artist submitted ONE 8.5" by 11" work, an 150 word bio, artwork context, and how to find them online, in print, or in the material world. There was no submission fee.

Calls were put out on social media and through various networks. All who submitted and met the criteria were accepted into the show. 66 artists submitted work. All met the criteria, and all were accepted in the Installation and Art Catalog.

The inaugural Installation was held at **465 Collective Space** gallery (465 S. Van Ness, SF), located in the former Femina Potens art gallery and performance space, which was dedicated to showcasing work by women and trans artists and operated from 2002 to 2007. It also included a pop-up shop by SF Artists for Palestine with all proceeds going directly to Palestinians impacted by the genocide.

Physical and digital catalogs of the Installation will be archived in places like the Internet Archive, zine archives, and cultural, public, or educational institutions as a means of ensuring records of Immigrant and / or Queer Artists coming together in times of political attack survive for future generations to find. **The Catalog and Installation, total and complete, includes a Creative Commons Attribution-Non-Commercial-Noderivatives 4.0 Deed, meaning others are free to print and install the digital prints as is within the catalog for non-commercial purposes with proper attribution, which is included in the catalog.** Additionally, the digital catalogs are formatted in letter size to ensure easy printing and installation of the works in other localities.

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Addy F. Gravatte

Addy F. Gravatte

☐ Immigrant
☒ Queer

✎ Addy F. Gravatte (they/them) is a queer + trans experimental collage artist/poet/screenwriter in the Bay Area whose work concerns body horror, sexuality, and translation. They have recently finished their text-image hybrid thesis centered around the body as material as part of the MFA program at California College of the Arts. They can be found on Instagram at @gravyads.

INSTAGRAM: @gravyads

Alan Tello

Alan Tello

☐ Immigrant
☒ Queer

✏️ I am a 16 year old queer artist. I took this picture about a year and a half ago when i was on a trip in oregon. At the time i felt super anxious about the state of the world kind of like i do now but when i saw this view it reminded me that sometimes we get caught up in the trvial things and we need to connect more with nature and its beauty.

INSTAGRAM: @Anxiety.n.chisme

Alvin Ortiz

Alvin Ortiz

☒ Immigrant
☒ Queer

✎ I was expected to attend church in my youth and what I once thought of as a spiritual environment gradually became distorted and ritualistic. In this painting I aim to visually represent my awareness and its effects on a developing mind. This painting was executed in a fragile manner, with the intention of allowing the underpainting to subtly emerge through the surface as if the painting were rendered unfinished. This technique symbolizes the development of my worldview during my youth - illustrating how my awareness never fully acclimated to my environment. I have always felt different in ways that could not be detected by my outward appearance. To convey this, I approached the painting in an impressionistic style, using loose brushstrokes, mark-making, and a composition that contrasts the figure to the background. I believe my concept is best expressed by generalizing my environment while emphasizing my suppressed significance.

INSTAGRAM: @alvinndachpmnks

Amirra Malak

Amirra Malak

☒ Immigrant
☐ Queer

Amirra Malak is a multidisciplinary Egyptian-American artist and educator living in the Pacific Northwest of the United States while also inhabiting spaces between cultures, countries, geographies, and identities. With family and history in places at great distance from each other, she feels stretched between worlds and is thus most at home in liminal spaces, especially in the natural world. Her latest work bridges past, present, and future through the combination of ancient craft and modern technologies in video and textile installations inspired by Egyptian Khayamiya tent applique. Amirra's artist practice includes equal parts hand-gathering natural materials, filming fleeting luminous meditative moments, hand cutting and hand stitching Khayamiya patterns, and finding ways to bring it all together as acts of reverence and healing for the world at this moment in time.

Khayamiya Portal
Still photo of video of water filmed in the Pacific Northwest projected onto and through textile (hand cut paper on silk)
74x36"
Time: original video 2:09-mins, played on a loop

My installation work will be featured in a special being produced for OPB's Oregon ArtBeat to be released in the spring of 2025 and as an example of contemporary Khayamiya art in the book "Art of the Tentmakers," written by Sam Bowker and Seif El Rashidi, through American University in Cairo Press, 2025 (upcoming).

WEBSITE: www.amirramalak.com
INSTAGRAM: @artwithamirra

Andrea Fuenzalida

Andrea Fuenzalida

☒ Immigrant
☐ Queer

An Australian citizen born to Chilean immigrants who has lived in Australia, Canada and Chile. I moved to San Francisco after following a “crazy” dream to be an artist living in San Francisco. Despite whatever hardships we face living here I have indeed found the diverse community a huge blessing and very glad to still be here. Around the world people who are different and unique are often marginalized and this is the type of people I love to be around. Am not “Queer” and my immigrant status doesn’t mean I coming from any sort of horrendous hardship abroad. The intention of my art is to uplift the community and empower individuals. Also I work organizing events bringing opportunities for artists to showcase, gather, share and be present in our community. Art is powerful magic and I love painting a positive reality into the universe.

WEBSITE: www.ArtistDrea.com

INSTAGRAM: @dreaArtist

MORE: Fern Alley Music Series. Haight Ashbury Street Fair Artwalk. “The Love of Ganesha” roll down gate.

Angelica Full Moon

Angelica Full Moon

☐ Immigrant
☒ Queer

✎ Angelica Full Moon is a Filmmaker and multi-dimensional Artist, always in exploration of new mediums and ways of expression. Her experiments range from ceramics, feminine jewelry, collage, and unique glass paintings. House Spirits is an original acrylic and ceremonial ash on glass representational art of the ghosts of trees that live in our everyday objects. As I studied the wood tiles in the home I lived in, I sensed the spark of death that remembers life. What is now a ceiling was once deeply rooted into the earth, what was once living knowledge is only now a record. House Spirits is the first of what became a series.

WEBSITE: https://angelicafullmoon.wixsite.com/angelicafullmoon
INSTAGRAM: @angelicaxfm_
MORE: https://m.imdb.com/name/nm9206127/

Anita Sulimanovic

Anita Sulimanovic

☒ Immigrant
☐ Queer

My work is deeply rooted in the theme of displacement—both personal and collective—and reflects my own history as an immigrant. Born in Croatia, I grew up surrounded by the stories of my grandparents' frequent relocations, which led to each of their nine children being born in a different town. This legacy of constant movement shaped my understanding of identity, belonging, and home, themes that permeate my artistic practice.

Over the course of my life, I have lived in 15 different places across multiple countries, and my work seeks to capture the fragility and resilience of these experiences. As an artist, I work across various mediums—including drawing, photography, printmaking, performance, video, sound, and especially sculpture and site-specific art—to explore the intersections of history, memory, and place. Through my work, I aim to give voice to the often invisible struggles of immigrants and displaced peoples—those whose stories are marked by fragmentation, but also by endurance.

WEBSITE: www.anitasulimanovic.com

INSTAGRAM: @anita_suli

MORE: Public sculpture "Process" at Andres Institute of Art, Brookline, NH, USA

Areem Rose

Areem Rose

☐ Immigrant
☒ Queer

Areem Rose is a first generation Lebanese non-binary disabled Muslim multimedia artist based in Portland, Oregon. Their creative work in film seeks to bring understanding and empathy to underrepresented peoples. Through their creative projects, they incorporate themes, characters, and stories of sexuality, gender, and racial minority community members.

WEBSITE: www.areemrose.com

INSTAGRAM: @artnuvwhore

MORE: I have art hanging at KBOO independent radio!

Arthur Jackson V

Arthur Jackson V

☐ Immigrant
☒ Queer

✎ Arthur Jackson V as in 5th of His Name is a Bay Area queer, artist of colour living & loving in San Francisco. Artist by day Dj by night. His goal in both of these is to bring people together, bridge the gap between communities through sound, words, and brush strokes.

WEBSITE: https://www.instagram.com/afro_pup/profilecard/?igsh=NTc4MTIwNjQ2YQ==

INSTAGRAM: @Afro_pup

MORE: (My book) *To Boys With Green Hair* (website) Rebelsatoripress.com

Badri Valian

Badri Valian

☒ Immigrant
☐ Queer

Badri Valian is a San Francisco-based painter, social practitioner, performer, and interactive installation artist. Born in central Iran to a displaced Kurdish family, her work is deeply shaped by the intergenerational trauma of her mother's severe depression and the challenges of life under the dictatorship, post-1979. Sports and art became an outlet for resilience, and Badri excelled in mountaineering, joining Iran's national climbing team and embarking on expeditions in the Himalayas. In the U.S., she uses art to amplify underrepresented voices, addressing themes of censorship, gender inequality, and exile. Her projects have been showcased at ICA SF, YBCA SF, NUMU museum, and Kyoto's Shibori Museum. Recognized with awards like the DAR prize; Daughters of the American Revolution; and SFAC grants. Badri's video work appeared atop Salesforce Tower. She was featured in Women, Art, Freedom Book. Badri dreams of one day sharing her art in a free Iran.

WEBSITE: www.Badrivalian.com

INSTAGRAM: @BadriValian

MORE: Book with Title: *Women Art Freedom, Artists and Street Politics in Iran* by Dr. Pamela Karimi

BEARPAD (Patrick Stephenson & Jordan Fickel)

BEARPAD (Patrick Stephenson & Jordan Fickel)

☐ Immigrant
☒ Queer

Documentation of the setup of our project CHODE TRIP, where we inflated an 8 foot tall custom-made phallus in every place we travelled through this summer on our two month road trip. BEARPAD is a collaborative art duo creating bold, colorful works celebrating queer, affectionate bodies. Founded a decade ago by Patrick Stephenson, who has a background in graphic design, BEARPAD expanded in 2021 with the addition of Jordan Fickel. Together, they have elevated BEARPAD's presence in the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond, with larger and more ambitious projects, including murals, a line of apparel, colossal inflatables, and original woodcut art works. They aim to further queer public spaces to be more accepting, diverse, collaborative, and sex-positive. If you're in SF, see our works on the side of the Powerhouse, inside Oasis, on the back patio of the Lone Star Saloon, or on the racks of Queer Arts Featured.

WEBSITE: www.bearpad.art

INSTAGRAM: @bearpadart

MORE: Murals in San Francisco, T shirts that we sell, and Queer Arts Featured in the Castro

Bushra Gill

Bushra Gill

☒ Immigrant
☐ Queer

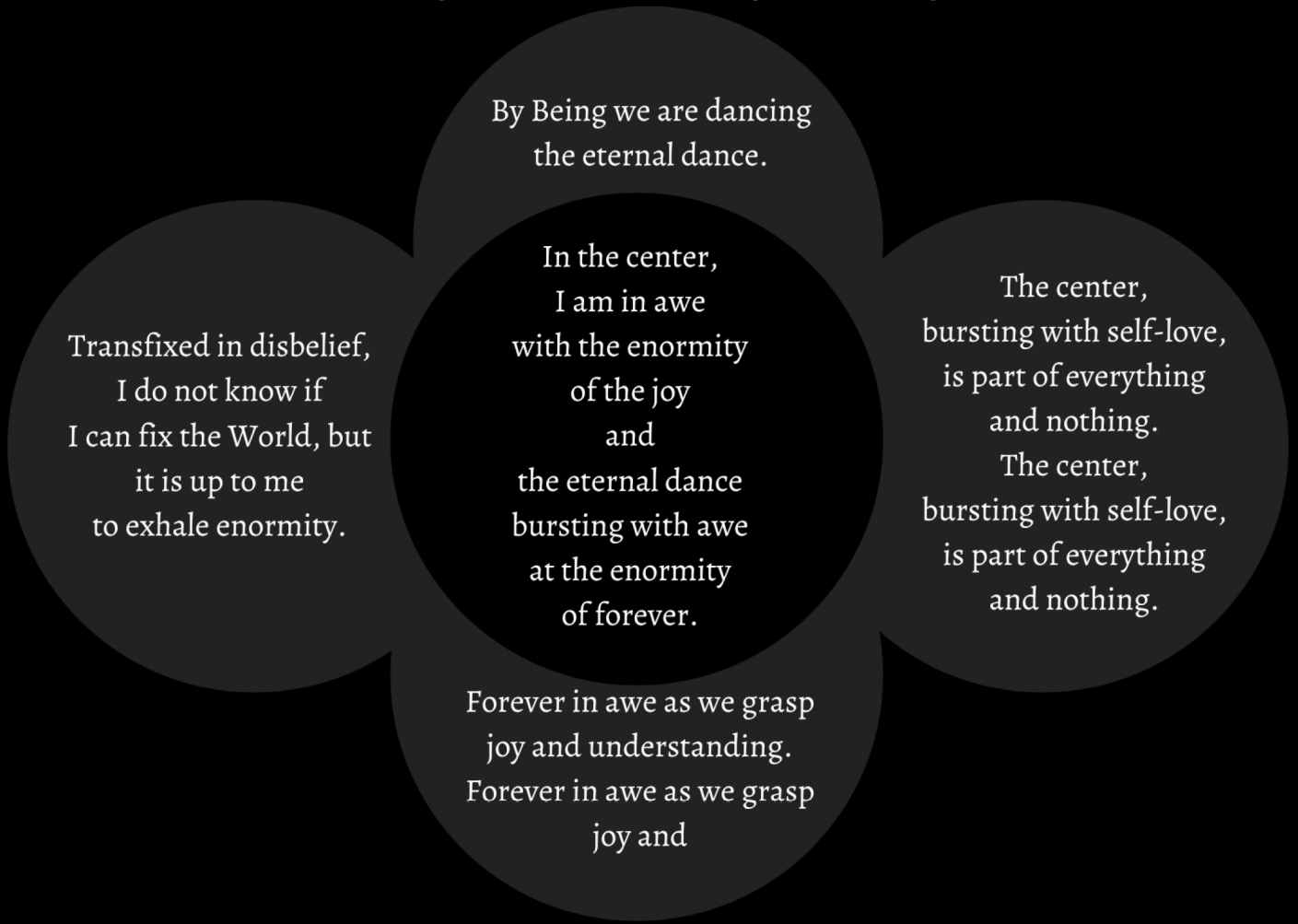
Bushra Gill finds order within the chaos of everyday life through art. She was born in Karachi, Pakistan, and emigrated to Houston, Texas, with her family as a small child. Drawn to art from a young age, she graduated from Pratt Institute in 1994 with a BFA in sculpture. Gill spent many years working as a museum educator. Currently living and working in northern California, Gill also curates exhibitions. /Emigrating at a young age, I've always felt a part of things but was actually apart from most everything. So in my work, I think about connection, especially an underlying structure of everything around us that unites us to each other and to nature, time and space. Inspired by Islamic geometric patterns, I tessellate images from everyday life to create rich and complex surface structures in/with paint, print, and wood collage. In the process, dimensions of my subjects are simultaneously revealed and concealed, enabling me to explore the concept of things that are both present and veiled – like my hair, which I cover with a scarf in public. Using repeated geometric shapes that fit closely together creates a sense of order through which I understand the natural world and my personal experience. Rather than constraining my freedom, this approach provides a scaffold for experimenting with color, texture, and spatial possibilities.

Co-Curator of Nothing New

WEBSITE: www.bushragill.com
INSTAGRAM: @bushragill_art

A STUDY OF THE WORLD

Through Tarot, Poetry, & Magic



C0SM0P0LITICIAN

c0sm0p0litician

c0sm0p0litician

☐ Immigrant
☒ Queer

c0sm0p0litician is trying their best. they're born and raised in the Bay but priced out all the way to Colorado. they are a poet, artist, educator, and mystic who likes to combine the esoteric with resistance in an effort to find hope in times of hopelessness. they are the most hopeful pessimist they know.

WEBSITE: https://c0sm0p0litician.com/

INSTAGRAM: @c0sm0p0litician

MORE: Mostly on IG these days.

Crystal Mason

Crystal Mason

☐ Immigrant
☒ Queer

✎ Something about myself. I want to say something about being Black and queer, fat, and being angry and full of love. I want to reveal the fear, hope and danger I live with. I want to remember joy and connection, rage and grief. I want to talk about creating myself and how I was created.
I want to say here, here is a piece of me. I can only tell my story, the medium is the mystery. I am a cultural worker, who works to create space for QTBIPOC stories, art, meaning making and world building. I was born and raised in Richmond, VA but became grown, mostly in San Francisco and Berlin. I was a co-founder and Artistic Director of Luna Sea Women's Performance Project, Executive Director of Jon Sims Center of Performing Arts, and most recently the Administrative Director at Queer Rebels Production. Art making is a tool against oblivion. What we create is a tribute to our existence, to our resistance.

WEBSITE: www.crystalmason.net
INSTAGRAM: @ham_job1

Daniel Tofach

Daniel Tofach

☐ Immigrant
☒ Queer

I am a multidisciplinary, Canadian, 2SLGBTQIA+ artist and theatre-maker specializing in digital art, site-specificity, and audience-immersion. As a classically trained artist working primarily in new media, I apply traditional, painterly techniques to create original digital imagery—ultimately fusing my classical background with more modern composition methods. Inspired by queer culture, the male nude, and the impressionist painters of the late 19th/early 20th century, my work employs a trompe-l'oeil approach to texture and brushstrokes, resulting in digital paintings that appear at once hyperrealistic and impressionistic. My subject matter oscillates between traditional and experimental portraiture, relying heavily on exaggerated lighting and colour to both convey and illicit emotion and character. My portraiture often explores narratives surrounding the lived experiences of marginalized people and serves as a metaphor for resilience, revealing quiet or private moments of queer joy.

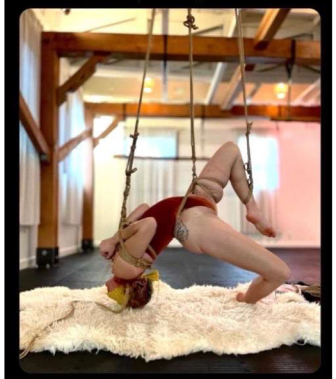
"Ben"
Digital Painting, 2024

WEBSITE: www.tofachart.com
INSTAGRAM: @tofachart
MORE: @tofachart.bsky.social

I held these humans in my arms Wednesday. They've held me since I came back, deeper than some old friends. On a determined whim I went out to @playxland & I'm grateful. There, I held Ritz hands & "Davey did words" just no idea those happy tears of feeling known were our goodbye.

It is strange that before this rope, Blue & I talked a lot about grief. Grief that still holds us from 2023 and further. Grief from the four other community members we had already lost in 2024

It is fitting the tengui never came off. In tension, I felt transported to past ties...



But waking this next morning, looking at these pictures, I feel the memory of breathing, &in my body I am there, holding the grief and communal love that I didn't yet know. There were no tears or rage, but neither much laughter. We just went home together. And grief came with us.

Grief is a puppy that follows you home. Maybe that sounds pretty messed up but hear me out. Grief wants to love you even if you never chose it, but invariably some hungry creature will be waiting around a corner of life if you just keep walking. &that pup keeps trying to catch up

Does it break our hearts knowing the pain that Griefpup comes from? Always. And when we try to train and control Grief, some days we feel we reach goals, others we are going backwards. Some days we will get accidentally nipped. Some days Grief is angry, scared, defensive, guilty.

As Grief gets older & you get wiser & know how to handle Grief, how to put a leash on it. But then there's days when Grief comes bounding and topples you, with how only Grief loves.

Because Grief is love - and the pain comes from trying to pretend that pain & love aren't bound.

Mx Davey Faye @TheDaveyXX · 2/17/24

Hold on to the creatures and humans in your life that you love. One day you will only be able to reach out and hold Grief. And Griefpup will lick and cuddle you and remind you what happens when you open your heart to love, you open your world to heartache. &that's how love lives.

words by Davey Faye (pictured) // rope & photos by True Blue // location: VoxBody Studio (Oakland, CA)

Davey Faye

☐ Immigrant
☒ Queer

✎ WHIRLIGIG is a shifting perspective of collaborative artistry within a radically intimate queer kinship, told through transformative co-creation in rope and words while navigating recent transmutations. Serving as an offering, a bridge between private communions of healing ecstasy, and public communications of transcendent grief. Bookended social media musings and intentionally curated reflections of shibari entanglements, the pensive investment of emotion, exhaustion, and adoration, typos and all, is imperfectly poignant and tangibly impermanent. These moments of honesty and metaphor, unexpected loss and anticipated nostalgic longing, are all shades and flavors of being human in uncertain times, which will live on even when platforms are erased and persons are forgotten. The WHIRLIGIG of death and desire, recollection and revolution, gratitude, inspiration, heartache, and heartbeats when love is bound (and bound to end) is NOTHING NEW.

INSTAGRAM: @thedaveyxx
MORE: Performance Artist

David Maldonado (aka Chasindoodles)

David Maldonado (aka Chasindoodles)

☐ Immigrant
☒ Queer

David Maldonado (who goes by Chasindoodles) is an artist in San Francisco who works with acrylic, linocuts,photography and digital work. Themes of his work are masculine forms with mid-century elements as well as cityscapes, tiki, and abstract work. Previous exhibitions his work has made an appearance at are ACCI Gallery, City Arts Co-op, Sausalito Center for the Arts, Rosebud Gallery, Lynn Museum, and Off the Wall Gallery.

WEBSITE: www.chasindoodles.com

INSTAGRAM: @chasindoodles

MORE: City Arts Gallery, Welcome Castro, Compound Gallery, and website

Desiree Darling, Tiana McGuire, and Lindsey Kincaid

Desiree Darling, Tiana McGuire, and Lindsey Kincaid

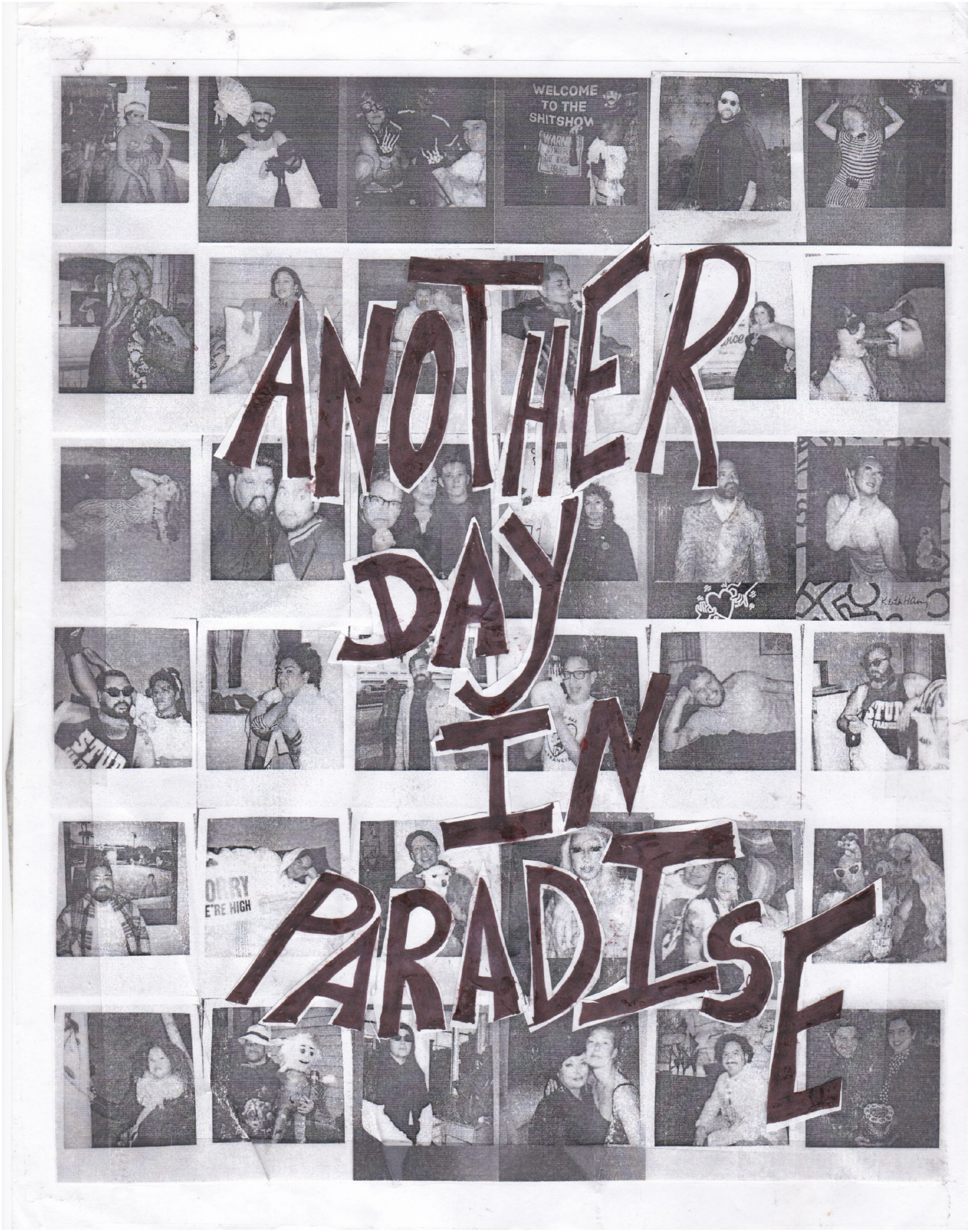
☐ Immigrant
☒ Queer

✎ Zero time to get settled today. Probably be there around 8:30 pm. A cute vibe, buncha queers beating each other up. Please bring a choice pearl necklace.

Submitted as a collaborative piece, needle work by Desiree Darling, modeled and styled by Tiana McGuire and photographed by Lindsey Kincaid.

Please Bring a Choice Pearl Necklace
Digital Print on Paper; 2024

WEBSITE: https://kinstudioarts.wordpress.com/
INSTAGRAM: @lkin_arts; @tiana.pins.n.needles; @sa7teindarling



Devon Devine

Devon Devine

☒ Immigrant
☒ Queer

Devon Devine is a filmmaker, polaroid artist, writer, and zinester. This piece honors chosen family and the beauty of SF nightlife.

WEBSITE: www.devondevine.com
INSTAGRAM: @devoncito

Dorian Katz / Poppers the Pony

Dorian Katz
Poppers the Pony

☐ Immigrant
☒ Queer

Dorian Katz/Poppers the Pony is an artist based in the Bay Area since the 1980s. She creates zines like Kid Unfriendly and Animal Sex Coloring Book in addition to her unending output of drawings. Dorian has organized art events and exhibitions in LGBTQIA+ communities for 25 years. From 2011-2019, she was director at Center for Sex & Culture's (CSC) Gallery Director showcasing contemporary art and historical materials. Her experiences of life in the Bay Area as well as her historical knowledge of it deeply effect her perspective and art. She enjoys presenting inclusive views of sexuality with humor and beauty. She received an MFA from Stanford University. Her art has been exhibited nationally and published widely. She has received awards, grants and rude questions about her art by very fancy people.

WEBSITE: https://poppersthepony.bigcartel.com/

INSTAGRAM: @poppers_the_pony

MORE: https://shuffle.do/@Dorian https://blackandwhiteprojects.com/2024/12/03/poppers-the-pony-popperss-human-heroes/

2021

how does one convey

a **lifetime** of *pain*

to someone who doesn't
even belive that they exist ?

you say my pronouns are grammatically incorrect as IF

THEY and **THEM**

had not been used as a singular pronouns since the **1300s**

but lets be honest
it was never about gramatics
it was about power. and control
because there is power in language
and he who controls language assumes
power.

you say
using my pronouns
makes you feel,
uncomfortable

but
do you ever
think
of how
eye
feel
when
you
misgender
me ?

she
and
her
each time
a punch
in the gut

a feeling that eye may **~~never~~** be liberated from.

a feeling
that
you
will ~~never~~ understand
because you have
never
HAD to question your identity

not in the way that eye have.

it
is
a
h not knowing who
o you
rr are
ib
le or which
fe box
el to check
in
g
it is a luxury
most people take for granted

a luxury that wouldn't even be considered as such
unless you've had to live without it.

what do my pronouns mean to you?
because to ME
they are a sense of validation.
to ME it is the difference between feeling *painfully*

unconfortable

and feeling respected.
to ME they alleviate
years
of gender dysphoria.

my prounous are worth fighting for
my prounouns are an expression of who eye am
rather than who society wants me to be
and ill be DAMNED if eye let anyone take that away from me.

you say there are only
two genders: boy and girl
and eye am left arguing my existance as if it is something that can even be put up for DEBATE

LOOK AT ME.
eye exist
eye am human
why can't that be enough?

is it my prounous that bother you or my very existance?
do eye make you *uncomfortable?*
because your dead-naming and misgendering

makes **ME** *uncomfortable*

do eye sound angry?
because eye am.

eye am angry that 2021 is the deadliest year on record for trans individuals

eye am angry that 2021 saw the
highest number of anti-trans
bills both introduced and
signed into law by legislatures.

eye am angry and you should be too.

44,46,50 trans and non-binary individuals murdered this year alone.

6 people murdered in the time it took me to write this poem,

MURDERED for: **daring** to **exist.**

they say this year has set a record
as if it is some sort of achievement.
as if these people were nothing but a number.
a statistic for others to look at and weep
while doing nothing to combat the hate and violence.

Marquiisha Lawrence, Sophie Vasquez, Oliver Taylor, Nikai David

we have failed you.
society
has failed you.

say their names because they are people NOT numbers
say their names because the news will not
say their names because they **died** honoring them.

they say homophobia is something of the past
isolated incidents that happen in dark alleyways
and call us *sensitive* when we take a **stand**
not knowing the amount of courage it took to
fight for the RIGHT
to exist
in a world
that constantly
reminds us
of how
disposable we are.

to our trans youth who are trying to navigate themselves
in this cruel world,
eye stand with you.
eye stand becuase of you
eye stand for you becuase goddammit eye wish someone
had been there to stand
for me
you are not alone. nor will you ever be.
and if you ever feel that you are,
please just remember me.

con amor y paz,
xoxo elias

eli vasquez

eli vasquez

☐ Immigrant
☒ Queer

✎ elias (eli) is a radical two-spirit indigiqueer trans person from texas where they worked, studied, and investigated the inner workings of the prison industrial complex. they were radicalized while working alongside historical trans movement leaders: Miss Major and Janetta Johnson in san francisco. elias is a feminist-oriented liberation movement organizer who carries with them the message “when Black trans women are free, we are ALL free”. elias is a poet and storyteller who believes art is and always has been: an act of radical self preservation, a key to possibility, and an irrevocable form of self expression. they use their art to describe the inner workings of current systems of oppression and how they affect our daily lives in hope of acknowledgement, in hopes of change… grammatics do not exist in my world <3

WEBSITE: www.innerdialect.org
INSTAGRAM: @eliii.vasquez

Elizabeth Estrada

Elizabeth Estrada

☐ Immigrant
☒ Queer

Elizabeth Estrada is a multidisciplinary artist from Los Angeles, California. Her practice is woven between painting, poetry, sculpture, and performance, often intertwining these mediums to explore themes of spirituality, queerness, and body politics. Inspired by meditative practices and community engagement, she has organized various art events and gatherings that center creative and holistic expression for the public. Currently residing in the Bay Area, Estrada is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Art Practice and Creative Writing at the University of California, Berkeley. You can find her on instagram dancing and posting occasional comedic skits @elizabethroseestrada

WEBSITE: www.Elizabethestradaart.com

INSTAGRAM: @elizabethroseestrada

MORE: YouTube /@elizabethroseestrada / "Dialogue of Selves"

Elle Lim-Chan

Elle Lim-Chan

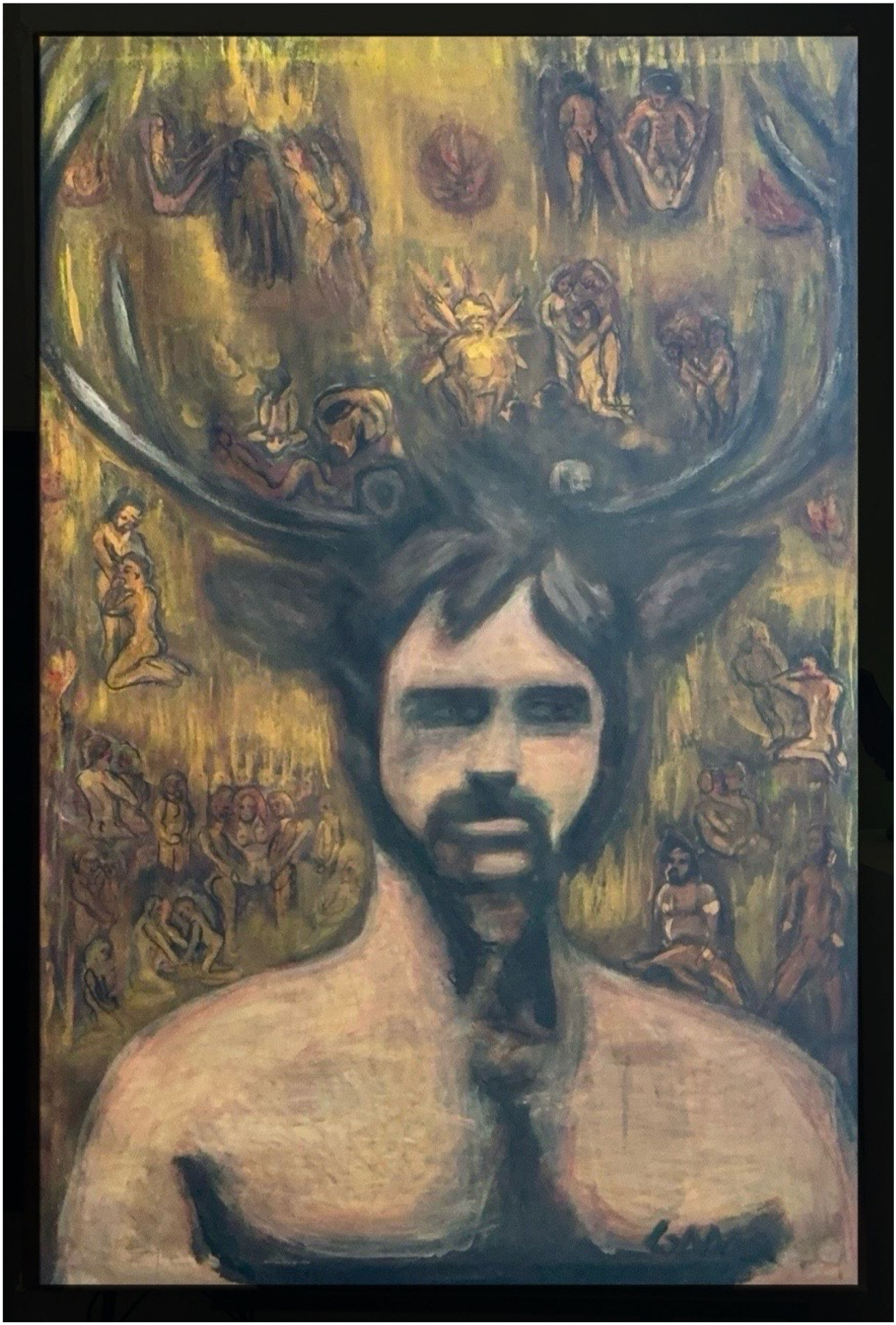
☐ Immigrant
☒ Queer

✎ Elle Lim-Chan (they/she) is a transfemme, nonbinary, Asian-American, Hakka artist under the handle @phishr_price. Her practice features comics, illustration, DJing, and installation art that highlights the artifacts left behind in the process of making such as rough crops or sketchy lines. She lives in the Bay Area with their queer community and amazing dog.

WEBSITE: ellelc.xyz

INSTAGRAM: @phishr_price

MORE: I do occasional pop up events at the comic book store, Silver Sprocket.



Gerardo Gama

Gerardo Gama

[X] Immigrant
[X] Queer

Born and raised in Mexico started doing portraits using oil colors at age 17. The lack of formal training allowed me to develop a free style. Later experimenting with acrylic, watercolors, metallic paints and anything available to create works similar to orthodox iconography, starting in chaos, gaining form and fo finish off with illumination. Based in San Francisco, launched my art professional career in 2020. I had my first solo exhibition called “Vacation Pictures, Paris” in which I showed acrylic and mixed media paintings of the sun, and landscapes I personally photographed. My painting “God” was published on the international publication “Beyond Words”, and I participated in many pop up arts shows, and created works for Comfort and Joy art collective in San Francisco, became the unofficial Horse Market sketch artist. The work submitted is titled “Hieros”, it was selected to feature in the 2024 CLAW leather thanksgiving event in LA. With this piece I aim to show all sexuality as sacred, with the hope to end violence, intolerance, oppression, repression, marginalization against LGBTQ+ and women.

WEBSITE: www.gerardogama.com

INSTAGRAM: @Gerardogamavisualart

MORE: https://www.spatial.io/s/Xochipili-and-Xochiquetzal-Heavens-673b072f0934a7f92feeb857

Ginger Yifan Chen

Ginger Yifan Chen

☒ Immigrant
☒ Queer

✎ This photo was taken during the West Coast March for Gaza on Jan 14, 2024. Ginger Yifan Chen (they/them) is a multidisciplinary artist from Shanghai, residing in San Francisco. Their main disciplines are writing, directing, and various forms of visual art, with a focus on eco-centric sci-fi, liminal spaces, nonbinary-ness, and immigrant narratives. Find them online @gingerychen or gingerychen.com!

WEBSITE: www.gingerychen.com
INSTAGRAM: @gingerychen

Gisela Insuaste

Gisela Insuaste

☒ Immigrant
☐ Queer

I'm an Oakland-based artist, educator, and cultural producer interested in the built and natural environment. My paintings, drawings, and sculptures explore the intersection of architecture, memory, myth, and topography. Using found, industrial, and natural materials, I create spaces and structures that reflect the precariousness of our environment. Through line, color, scale, and texture, I map the idiosyncrasies of the urban/natural landscape (real and imagined) to question our individual and shared cultural space and identity. I'm inspired by the apus (Quechua word to describe protective spirits of the Andes), to connect to people, places, and things at the periphery—to (un)expected encounters or gestures that (dis)connect us to a place physically, emotionally, and spiritually. This artwork includes foam core cutouts from a mock-up of a recent public art commission for a hanging sculpture. These are precariously stacked on a wooden platform with wheels and represent my emotional and creative journey which lives on as a mobile floor sculpture.

draft leftovers de mi corazón, 2023
18 in x 14 x 16 in
foam core, wood, acrylic paint, metallic tape, cotton twine

WEBSITE: www.giselainsuaste.com/
INSTAGRAM: @giselanycoak
MORE: Book: Barush, Kathryn. *Imaging Pilgrimage: Art as Embodied Experience*. New York: Bloomsbury Visual Culture, 2021

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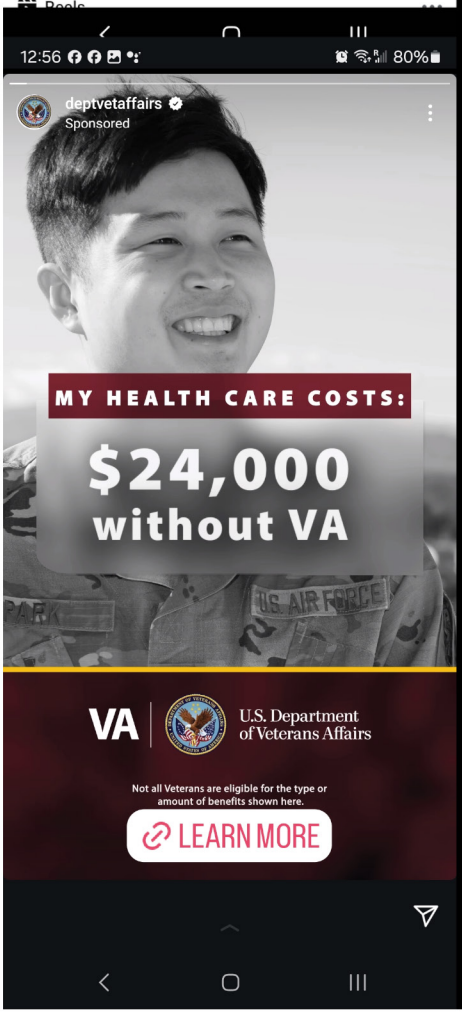
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MY HEALTH CARE COSTS:
$24,000
without VA
VA
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Not all Veterans are eligible for the type or amount of benefits shown here.
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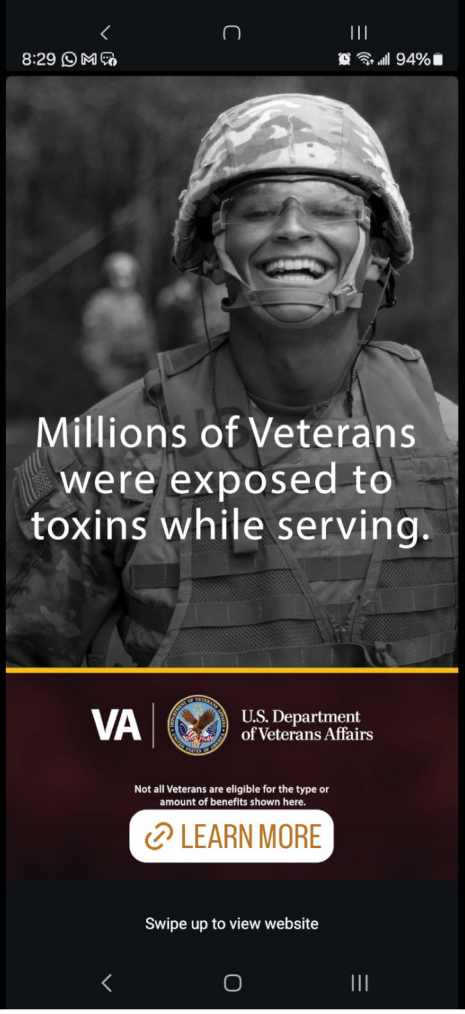
Millions of Veterans were exposed to toxins while serving.
VA
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Not all Veterans are eligible for the type or amount of benefits shown here.
LEARN MORE
Swipe up to view website

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FREE VETERANS FUNERAL PLANNING GUIDE.
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Hamza Kubba

Hamza Kubba

☒ Immigrant
☐ Queer

Hamza Kubba is a game developer and photographer, currently residing in Ahwaste.

WEBSITE: https://perplex.gg/
INSTAGRAM: @bigimp
MORE: https://spacepizza.gg/

Idalia Ramos

Idalia Ramos

☒ Immigrant
☒ Queer

Idalia Ramos is a Mexican-American dancer, visual artist, and experience creator whose work centers on identity, connection, and transformation. Through movement and visual design , they invite individuals to explore their personal and collective stories, fostering liberation and deeper self-awareness. Their practice encourages a journey of shedding old identities and embracing new possibilities for connection and liberation.

WEBSITE: www.noneatthemoment.com
INSTAGRAM: @jazzidalia (dance) @magicalrealismart (art)

Jackie Salgado

Jackie Salgado

☐ Immigrant
☒ Queer

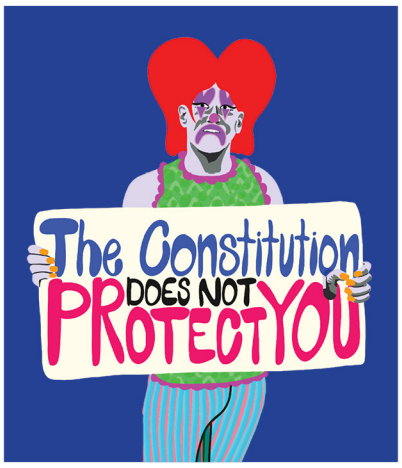
As a Latina and Native American artist, I utilize art and music as outlets for expressing myself the best ways I know how. Emotion, life experiences, as well as people and places in these experiences, are the foundations of bringing out the innermost parts of me that develop into many different arts mediums and forms of expression.

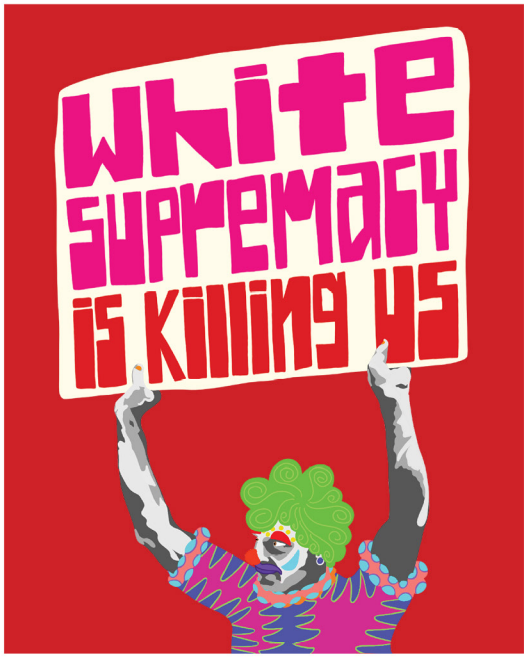
Native American; Ojibwe- Chippewa Sault Ste Marie Tribe, and local to San Antonio Texas

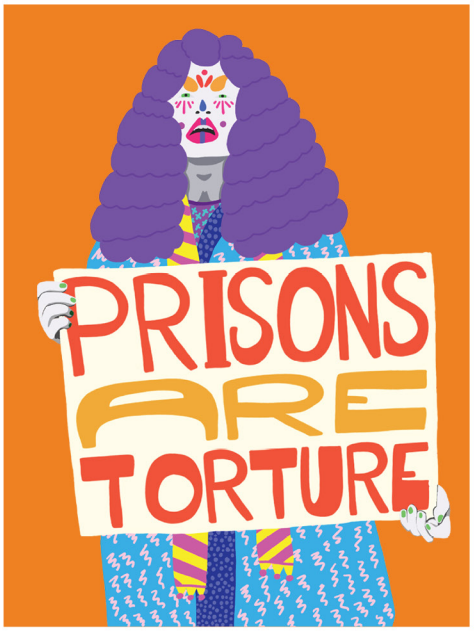
WEBSITE: https://events.getcreativesanantonio.com/artist/jack-salgado/

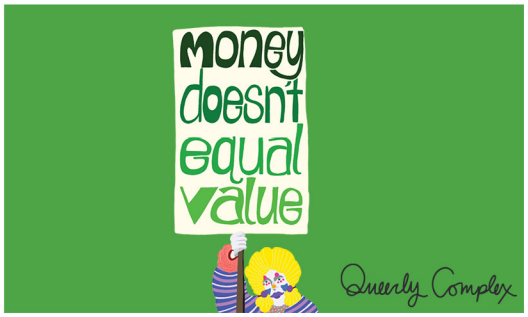
INSTAGRAM: @bluemoonart.satx

MORE: https://www.expressnews.com/lifestyle/article/native-american-artists-san-antonio-19880688.php









Jason Wyman / Queerly Complex

Jason Wyman
Queerly Complex

☐ Immigrant
☒ Queer

I am Jason Michael Wyman / Queerly Complex (E / he / they). I was born upon the Land of 10,000 Lakes on what I am coming to know as Turtle Island, who has settled on Yelamu, which is also called San Francisco. My name means healer, or so I've been told since a young child. I did not believe it until my father, Michael (Mike) James Wyman, and I mended our selves and one another as my dad died of mantle cell non-Hodgkin's lymphoma across a screen and a country over all of 2020.

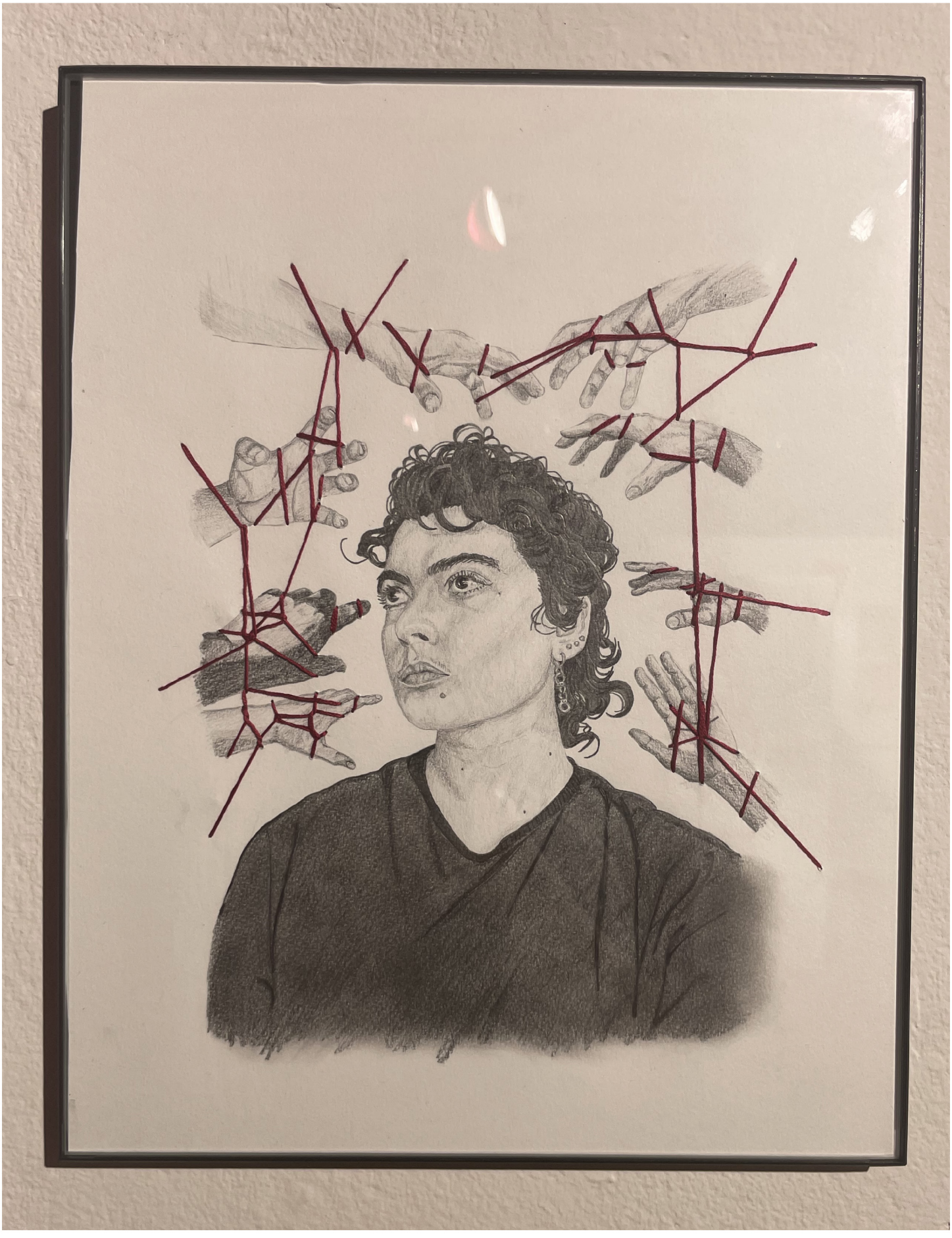
What I am coming to understand as the significance of my name is that healer does not mean healed or (even) healing. Rather, it is a positionality within the cosmos that allows one's self to change and be changed by all that unfolds. It is to be curious and listen, and then create.

I, too, am white. I, too, am male (presenting). I, too, am queer. I, too, am anti-binary. I, too, am an artist. I am so many things named and unnamed. But who I be is a gatherer of relations and a dreamer of possibilities amidst the chaos of creation and death and rebirth.

Politics Is A Clown Show - Jan 2025 Edition
Digital Illustrations using archival photos of political protests in the USA drawn between 2020 and 2024 and originally posted on social media

Co-Curator of Nothing New

WEBSITE: www.queerlycomplex.com
INSTAGRAM: @queerlycomplex
MORE: www.treeofchange.net www.culturetending.com *Beyond Worship*, edited by James Adamas



Jasper R. Rush

Jasper R. Rush

☐ Immigrant
☒ Queer

✎ “Safety Net” is done with two of my favorite mediums: graphite pencil and embroidery thread. It is a physical representation of the support systems and coping mechanisms I have worked to build. Many themes in my art are uncomfortable to look at, because they are often inspired by my own experiences with mental health struggles and societal pressures to stay silent about them. I want people to almost get lost in the details of my work at times, so they are forced to look, even when it is uncomfortable to see. It is much more uncomfortable to feel. I hope that viewers can find connections to their own lives. Through my perspective as a transgender man navigating mental health, I aim to create art that is both meaningful and impactful, whether that is through a joyful image or by reminding viewers that they are not alone in their struggles.

Safety Net, 2024
Graphite pencil and embroidery thread on mixed media, 14” x 11”

WEBSITE: www.jasperrrush.com
INSTAGRAM: @moldy_doodles

Jaylene Cabrera

Jaylene Cabrera

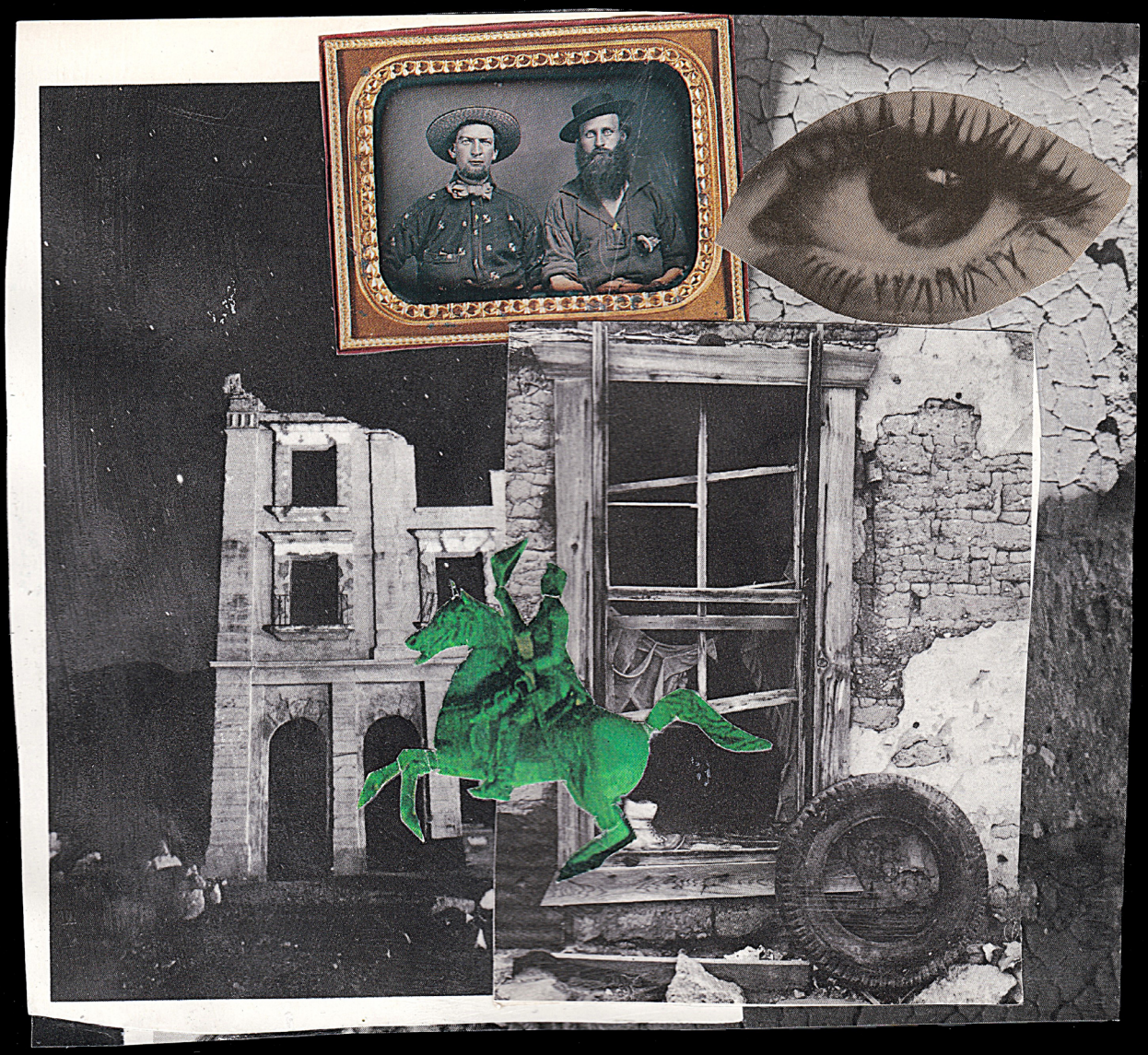
[X] Immigrant
[X] Queer

Jaylene Cabrera, a first-generation Cuban-American artist born in Fort Lauderdale, FL, in 2001, upcycles materials to inspire meaning in forgotten pieces. Her themes explore overlooked spaces, portraiture, and abstraction, connecting with the environment, personal relationships, and self. Set to graduate in Spring 2025 with a BFA in Painting, Printmaking, and Drawing from the University of North Florida, Cabrera works as an assistant at South Light Gallery and an Osprey Community Ambassador at UNF. She has interned at the Museum of Science and History, creating art projects for children, and Art with a Heart in Healthcare, providing personalized artwork for hospital patients. Her work has been exhibited at venues like UNF, FSCJ, South Light Gallery, FemArt, and Bespoke House. Awards include 1st Place in the 2023 JAX Trash Art Contest and Best Overall in the 2024 UNF Juried Student Show. Cabrera's work is featured in Ouch! Collective and Wellness Zine: Growth.

WEBSITE: https://jaylenenicole67.wixsite.com/website

INSTAGRAM: @shreduptheart

MORE: I sell in Jacksonville Florida and by request on instagram



Jeremiah Pfeffer

Jeremiah Pfeffer

☒ Immigrant
☐ Queer

Jeremiah Pfeffer is a multidisciplinary artist from Sacramento, California. His work draws from his family's diverse immigrant and working-class heritage. Jeremiah's father, a Dutch jazz musician who supported Dizzy Gillespie's group, was the son of a German boxer and a Jewish woman who survived the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands. On his maternal side, his grandmother's family were southern Dust Bowl migrants to California, settling on land that would later be deemed a superfund site. His maternal grandfather is a Mexican American veteran, whose dignity and resilience deeply influenced Jeremiah's work. Through his work, Jeremiah explores the intersections phenomenology, resilience, and the human condition, offering a nuanced perspective on the complexities of identity in America.

The People Who Don't Exist
Collage

INSTAGRAM: @j_pfeffer_

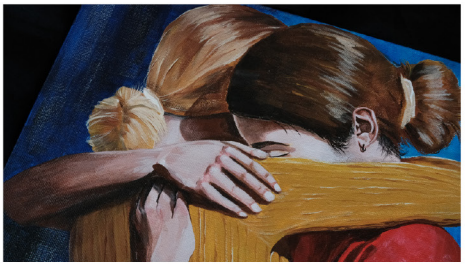
Julian Parikh

Julian Parikh

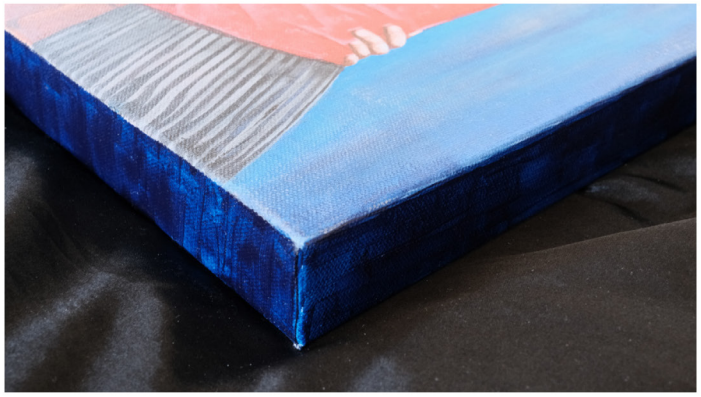
☐ Immigrant
☒ Queer

Julian Parikh (they/them) is a graphic designer and multimedia artist in the Bay Area. They work in print and time-based media with a focus on visual storytelling. Through their practice, they explore their queer/trans, biracial, and second generation identities and seek to find community within these spaces. Their experimental approach aims to communicate non-binary perspectives, highlighting the multifaceted aspects of gender expression and cultural identity. Ba's Necklace, is part of a series titled Offset, a collection of Risograph prints depicting traditional South Asian jewelry adorning the bodies of several queer individuals. This iteration features the artist wearing their grandmother's necklace, a piece of jewelry that has worn over time. The necklace rests on their chest, with body hair and top surgery scars prominent. The series focuses on imperfections, how they are designated, how they are perceived, and what they represent when it comes to identity.

WEBSITE: www.julianparikh.com
INSTAGRAM: @julianparikh



‘You are not alone’, 20x20 inch, acrylic on canvas
Kateryna Ferman



Kateryna Ferman

Kateryna Ferman

☒ Immigrant
☐ Queer

You Are Not Alone captures the profound strength found in human connection. In this piece, two women embrace, offering each other comfort, support, and understanding. Through this artwork, I want to remind viewers that no matter how difficult life may feel, there is always someone out there who cares—a friend, a loved one, or even a kind stranger. This painting is a testament to the resilience and power of support. It invites you to pause, breathe, and remember that you don't have to carry your burdens alone. My hope is that You Are Not Alone serves as a visual hug, offering warmth and reassurance to anyone who sees it. You are seen, you are valued, and you are never truly alone.

From the moment I picked up a crayon as a child I knew art was my calling. My first canvas was the walls of my home—much to my parents' dismay! After that, they decided to enroll me in art school, where I spent almost a year learning the basics. But life took a different turn, and while I always dreamed of being a professional artist I became a paid ads manager instead, with painting remaining just a hobby. In 2024, I had an epiphany: we only have one life, and I want to live mine as an artist. This realization pushed me to take my art seriously, and I started looking for opportunities to share my work with the world. I've already made some sales, and now my focus is on painting women - their strength, their passions, and their beauty. It captivates me, and I want to capture that energy on canvas. My dream is to become a renowned artist worldwide. I want my art to fill homes with beauty and energy, making people feel better just by being in its presence.

WEBSITE: https://fermanart.shop/
INSTAGRAM: @ferman_art
MORE: www.youtube.com/@ferman_art

Katina Papson

Katina Papson

☐ Immigrant
☒ Queer

✎ Katina Papson/ interdisciplinary + community artist, from NYC/ exploring queer bodies + missing/border narratives through photography/ film since 1999.

WEBSITE: www.katinapapson.com
INSTAGRAM: @katinap_art
MORE: See portfolio section of my website

Kevin McDonald

Kevin McDonald

☐ Immigrant
☒ Queer

✎ Kevin McDonald is a queer photographer, makeup artist, and educator working in Washington, D.C. His photography practice is bifurcated. One branch explores architecture and the natural world through a hazy, stylized lens. The other obsesses over self portraiture. He is inspired by light, shadow, and textures. He believes you can say anything with your own image.

WEBSITE: https://kevinmcdonald.photos/
INSTAGRAM: @kevinmcdonald.photos

Kevin Simmonds

Kevin Simmonds

☐ Immigrant
☒ Queer

Kevin Simmonds has created with support from Creative Work Fund, Fulbright, Institute for Contemporary Art, Pulitzer Center, and San Francisco Arts Commission. He composed the music (and co-wrote the text) for the Japanese noh-inspired play “Emmett Till, a river,” the Emmy Award-winning documentary “Hope: Living and Loving with HIV in Jamaica,” “Voices of Haiti: A Post-Quake Odyssey in Verse” (featured on PBS NewsHour), and the stagework “Wisteria: Twilight Songs from the Swamp Country” (featured on BBC Radio 3). His books include “The Monster I am Today” and the anthology “Collective Brightness: LGBTIQ Poets on Faith, Religion & Spirituality.” His films have played at SF Frameline, Provincetown, and MIX NYC.

WEBSITE: www.kevinsimmonds.com
INSTAGRAM: @simmonds_kevin
MORE: www.instagram.com/thegrassiscorrect

Dearest Leila Devika,

Do you remember how I sang you down from the stars? Alchemy was our womb. Our longing to connect, our guide. Mother and daughter and magic. Turmeric, sage, fennel. Moon, water, clouds. We open into the yes.

Mallige hoova, the jasmine song of my tongue. Kannada whispers to the sky. Sweet fragrance becomes a prayer dancing in the wind, connecting me with my Ajji and my mom, and now with you.

Once upon a time, on the longest day of the year, I took a walk by myself. To my delight, I wasn't alone. Mallige hoova was calling me from around the corner. When we reunited, we danced and sang our joy to the sky. Oh Leila!

They said to ground with the earth, but I was called to the water. They said creation was doing, but I was called to sit with the seeds and listen to their songs. I could see the flowers before they bloomed. I could feel you, so I sang you down from the stars.

Remember, the way of tenderness is medicine. We can use it for healing. Oh, my dear sweet beloved, "May you be with Leila." My power—I use it for protection, to manage our energy. What will help you trust?

I lost a whole continent. Lakshmi arrives. She takes my hand and places a special mantra in my heart. I reclaim by remembering. I accept myself without conditions.

As you grow, remember: Healing is not linear. Nature is sacred. Let's go outside, by the water. I'll sing to you and the flowers. Drink your milk, take your nap—when you wake, I will be here, loving you, breathing in the scent of mallige hoova.

With all my love,

Mama

Kirthi Nath

Kirthi Nath

☐ Immigrant
☒ Queer

Kirthi Nath is a South Asian lesbian filmmaker whose creative practice roots from a foundation of art as activism and centering BIPOC voices. Kirthi has established a body of work that fluidly straddles genres, occupying a fertile landscape of cultural poetics, social justice and spirituality. Kirthi's work has been featured at the Mill Valley Film Festival, CAAMfest, 3rdi South Asian Film Festival, DisOrient Asian American Film Festival, Frameline, Wicked Queer, solo shows at YBCA and ATA, and commissions for V-Day, One Billion Rising and Off the Mat. Kirthi has been awarded grants from Center for Asian American Media (CAAM), Center for Cultural Innovation (CCI), and V-Day, and participated in Re-Present Media's Re-Take Oakland Fellowship, A-Doc Allies, BGDM Mastermind and Bitchitra Collective Curated Programs.

WEBSITE: www.cinemagicalmedia.com

INSTAGRAM: @kirthimagic

MORE: www.paramitafilm.com

Funny how we grow into our parents
We witness all the things they've done wrong
Yet we still find ourselves committing the same non-arbitrary acts they did before us
And a piece of our minds understand what we are contributing to
We don't know the place for oppression, this cycle continues
We squeeze
We can't breathe
We're searching for trees
Dying over seeds
Black men dying overseas
For a country that don't believe
In them
Funny how men grow up to be boys
My father
Not a father
My mother
Not a murderer
A knife in her hand
These things happen
Bars that sing him to sleep
This does happen
Helicopters rushing to the scene
Armed police
Guns loaded
Future directed for destruction
Cards folded
He leaves in chains
Our history involves
Us
Breaking
Those chains
Yet my father remains
In that same place
And those bars whisper a lullaby each night
Just for him

Koko G

Koko G

☐ Immigrant
☒ Queer

✎ Koko G, born & raised from Bayview Hunters Point. She is an emerging Hip-Hop/R&B artist that creates music & poetry surrounding her real life experiences. Through her art, she navigates and expresses her struggle of loss, love, healing & identity. Music has saved Koko's life. She continues to write and perform lyrics and words that challenges and uplifts her spirit. You can find her music on IG: koko.geee

WEBSITE: https://kokog.my.canva.site/poetry
INSTAGRAM: @Koko.geee

I dressed in red & green
I slipped my hand in a pink & blue bracelet
& adjusted the trans flag pinon my knitted hat

Flowers-- that's what you lay at memorial sites.

I stuffed some pink faux cherry blossoms
I had worm with my white, pink and blue
flower crown in the socialist's
contingency of last year's cherry blossom
parade

These two faux flower leis had been
worn by my wife - a trans woman, and
myself - an all gender person.

In a blood red jacket, dress and bag slung
over my shoulder, I walked to the
flower stand at 4th & Market, three
blocks away

The blood red brick sidewalk was
wet from earlier showers

The florist combined
red & green flowers for a sweet
little bouquet

Drizzle. The rain was on its way.

I took the Muni to the Castro,
shuffled down the sidewalk which already
smelled of alcohol

The memorial was still alive.
Not the little kid.
Not the bleeding heart anarchist.

I approached & got to work, tying
fake pink flower crowns around the
black bars acting as a memorial skeleton for
our gifts to the dead

Nex got one & Aaron/Lily got the
other.

I can write Aaron so well, for it
was the name forced on my
wife when she was born.

I free red & green flowers
from the bouquet & lace them
through the black skeleton on Lily's side.

I free some more & weave them
above a sign for Nex-- 2-D bright eyes
looking down at me
2-D. Another 2-D nonbinary youth
child.
abandoned, neglected,
killed by our
society
The drizzle escalated to fat rain
I walked away

Across from the Castro station I
stopped at a closet of a store
for two slices of pizza.
Just before I step out with my
tiny box of pizza, heaven's
dam broke -- the Cosmos sobbed
fiercely in waves
People panicked-- probably
feeling
more scared of heaven's tears
than from the murder of a
child by their peers
or from the act
of setting oneself ablaze
because her heart had bled all her
Blood -- yet still burned

Burned for Palestine
Burned for Gaza
Burned for murdered infants
& screaming parents
& orphaned siblings
I froze, safe under the awning
with a rickety cafe table & chair.

I sat, opened the box & began eating
watching the people scatter off
the sidewalks into the stores

I sat & ate & watched, thinking
of other memorials for Lily where
It began to rain
-- smothering fires
Shocking humans to wake up

Lea McGeever

Lea McGeever

☐ Immigrant
☒ Queer

I am not bound by society's dictations of what makes a woman a woman or a man a man— or a human a human. I simply am. I am simply beautiful for it.

WEBSITE: https://leftylea.substack.com/
INSTAGRAM: @Leftylea_in_SF

Lena Lee

Lena Lee

☒ Immigrant
☒ Queer

Lena Lee is a San Francisco-based artist whose passion for art began in childhood. She developed a love for fine art painting, particularly watercolor, through specialized art education. Lena has explored various media, including drawing, printmaking, sculpture, and acrylic and oil painting, but watercolor has always remained her true passion. Drawn to watercolor's luminous transparency and its ability to capture the interplay of light and darkness with shadow, Lena's work blends technical precision with emotion. Her paintings reflect a deep connection to the subject matter, evoking moments of quiet reflection and exploring the subtle beauty of light. Each piece is an exploration of transparency, softness, and the delicate balance between control and spontaneity.

WEBSITE: www.lenawing91.com

INSTAGRAM: @Lenawing91

MORE: my own website or Artist Guild of San Francisco website (or show location at public parks)

Lesha Maria Rodriguez

Lesha Maria Rodriguez

☒ Immigrant
☐ Queer

Lesha is a Latine multidiscipline artist born and raised in Salinas, California, to a father who was a migrant worker – following the fields of the central coast to Yuma, Arizona. Her rugged spirit comes directly from witnessing her family's daily struggles. She earned an undergraduate degree in Art History from UC Santa Cruz and followed with a Master in Art (MFA) at UC San Diego – with a focus on the cultures and societies of Oaxaca, México. Her graduate work is heavily influenced by California's migrant workforce, who, like her father, come primarily from México.

WEBSITE: www.leshamaria.com
INSTAGRAM: @leshamariarodriguez

Marcella Sanchez

Marcella Sanchez

The bright lights of a carnival have always drawn me in—a kaleidoscope of joy and movement. Over the years, I've sought to capture the vibrancy of these spaces through my lens, experimenting with long exposures to transform swirling lights into vivid, abstract expressions of energy and freedom. This photograph was taken during a four-day carnival in the heart of San Francisco. Beyond its visual allure, the image pays homage to the deeper historical roots of Carnival. As Jade Flint, Cultural Editor of The Hilltop, writes: "After enslaved Africans were emancipated in 1834, Carnival became a celebration of their freedom and resistance against the colonial powers that be. Black people took to the streets to celebrate in true carnivalesque, completely uninhibited."

WEBSITE: www.msanchez.studio
INSTAGRAM: @msanchez.studio

Marin Carr-Quimet

Marin Carr-Quimet

☐ Immigrant
☒ Queer

Marin is an artist working primarily in sculpture, installation, and social practice. They're interested in social ecology, the built environment, and moments of decay that allow for transformation and imagining new futures.

WEBSITE: www.marincarrquimet.com

INSTAGRAM: @marin.c.q

MORE: Hanes Sculpture Garden, Chapel Hill, NC

Mark McBeth

Mark McBeth

☐ Immigrant
☒ Queer

Really Famous Photographer

All roads lead to Wyman
Winter 2022
digital film

WEBSITE: www.markmcbethprojects. com
INSTAGRAM: @markmcbeth
MORE: Lampposts

ABOUT THE WORK

Cruising in Califas: II

Mason J.'s multimedia project blends visual storytelling and poetry to explore identity, community, and resilience. It features 16 Polaroids and 4 poems. The work is displayed in two rows or 4 by 4 vertically strung Mexican party banner-style, with poems encircling photos to create an immersive narrative.

Materials include 8" x 11" paper for the artist's bio and poems, Polaroid reproductions (4.41"x4.41"), string, and gallery-safe adhesive. Together, they evoke texture and intimacy, drawing viewers into Mason's world.

As an Afro-Indigenous transgender Two-Spirit man, Mason reflects on cultural preservation, queer life, and political resistance. Created during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, Frisco5, Pride over the years and informed by Long COVID recovery, this series is a personal and collective exploration of resilience, space reclamation, and finding empowerment.

PROJECT TIMELINE

EARTH
Jan 28th - gather materials [if accepted]

WIND
assemble work
print poems

WATER
promo, social media channels, word of mouth etc.

FIRE
Get ready for the event!

avagar avagar little by little [to find pleasure in another's presence, a pathway into prayer.]

Diasporic Antizionist Jews like me traverse the globe,
Blessed fruit scattered worldwide,
From ancient roots, our destiny unfurls.
Twisting, unwinding, breaking free,
No longer plucked from olive trees,
With lips that glisten like the morning dew,
Tourmaline hair adorning me and you.

In bodies, from parchment to black ink,
A story of resilience, we eternally link,
Martyrs' flesh, our history's pain,
Yet the enemy's juice could not restrain.

For in our hearts, a mirror reflects,
The sweetness of affection, its profound effects,
An edible piece of the Creator's design,
A chapel of roses, incense divine.

With 14 points on my body adorned, I offer prayer,
In my communities, I find loneliness rare,
Bitter but sweet, like honey and radish,
Watermelon with myrrh, a taste so lavish.

Pomegranate and ginger, a symphony of delight,
Sacred expressions, like birds in the night,
Manifesting through all we do,
A testament to the soul, forever faithful.

As evil faces its time of ending,
The newness we conjure is transcending,
Resisting, adapting, ever-changing,
Tender gestures, our hearts engaging.
Rituals of renewal, transforming the land,
Together, we stand, hand in hand

Divine Rite
Sipping damiana tea spiked with mystic might,
With herbs and mushrooms, we take flight.
Cycling in tandem with the universe's flow,
Strong, brave, truthful, and new, we bestow.
Poppy constellations line the meadow's floor,
As we stroll over dandelion clouds, we adore.
Amidst a time of plagues and ashes dance,
We hide in the Presidio like foxes, in a trance.
Skipping down Fillmore, like coyotes at play,
Behind folded hands, secrets they convey.
Old world enchanted pathways, we tenderly roam,
A scarred cedar chest, 'gainst lemon balm's home.
36 romantic romps, toe at toe, we connect,
Lip pressed to lip, passion's fire we inject.
Lost in Eucalyptus hypnosis, we find,
A fondness so deep, it transcends space and time.

Mason J

Mason J

☐ Immigrant
☒ Queer

✎ Mason J. (he/they) is an award-winning author, historian, consultant, and educator born and raised in San Francisco. Lambda Literary Award recipient Mason's work weaves together themes of resilience, identity, and community, drawing from a rich background in migrant rights, union journalism, creative writing, public health, California, and LGBTQ+ history. As an educator, artist, program manager, social media strategist, graphic designer, and grandson of immigrants, Mason combines creativity with strategy to amplify marginalized voices and foster meaningful connections. Deeply rooted in activism, rootwork, biocybernetics, and storytelling, Mason champions equity and representation, working tirelessly to celebrate the intersections of class, race, gender, and sexuality. Their multidisciplinary expertise spans photography, cinema, medical herbalism, and DEIA, creating vibrant spaces for learning experiences and community dialogues.

WEBSITE: http://worksbymasonj.tumblr.com

INSTAGRAM: @frisco_griot

MORE: crossbones on my life, mission cultural center afrolatino in sf, coeditor ina/still here sf/we laughed in pleasure

Michael Kerschner

Michael Kerschner

☐ Immigrant
☒ Queer

I am an interdisciplinary performer, photographer, educator, and writer. As a conductor, I program concerts that include traditionally presented choral concerts as well as expansive shows that engage audience-interactive composition, aleatoric processes of improvisation, social media interaction, and in the communal ritual of group singing, where participants and audiences alike become complicit in the desire for the beautiful. My visual work utilizes the same improvisational processes that I utilize in my performance work. The portraiture is collaborative and choreographic, a dance between subject and camera; freezing forms in ways that reference Pina Bausch, Egon Schiele and Mannerist painting. My photographic tableaux vivants feature myself and other artists in my community, and reference historical portraiture as a way to transform otherness into the iconic, romanticizing the artists' place in the world. I embrace dichotomies that are often eschewed in formal training; such as high versus low, and good versus bad. I am interested in the creative opportunities that appear at the intersection of contradicting ideals. Once we understand that we can be moved by all things, at any level of experience, then anything can become an avenue by which we can experience the subtle and the sublime.

WEBSITE: in progress
INSTAGRAM: @queeringbeauty
MORE: Conductor of Queer Chorus

THE AMERICAN ASIANS
SINCE 1565
1790 —NATURALIZATION ACT— Aliens white persons, free white persons, Oh! I thought it was the mannish. Go back to where you came from, Kong Flu.
1854 —PEOPLE V. HALL— You look English. So small. That's English, isn't it? What's your real name? I bet you do anything in bed.
1875 —PAGE ACT— You looks Asiatic. What are you? Do you eat dog?
1882 —CHINESE EXCLUSION ACT— Where are you from? Are you ready to go? Are you sick? You're not? Then you're healthy. I read that article about you. Great work.
1898 —WENLANDS RESOLUTION— Ching Chong Yang Wah Long Ding Dong. Can I speak English? Hey Chink!
1913 —CALIFORNIA ALIEN LAND LAW— Girl. You don't look Asian. What are you?
1917 —ASIATIC BARRED ZONE ACT— Oh, You're not a bottom? You're too fat to be full Asian
1924 —JOHNSON-REED ACT— Is that an Asian thing? Your husband is lucky. I bet you do everything in bed.
1942 —EXECUTIVE ORDER 9066— There are things that can be done to fix your hooded eyes.
1952 —IMMIGRATION & NATIONALITY ACT— No Fats, Femmes or Asians? Do you give happy endings?
1967 —LOVING V. VIRGINIA— Are you really Asian? You're not Submissive enough. You're not like other Asian girls.
2017 —EXECUTIVE ORDER 13780— Time to ban Asian women. Girl bobics. You don't look Asian. On account. I don't see color at all.
Office of Management and Budget Race and Ethnic Standards for Federal Statistics Asian or Pacific Islander: A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian Subcontinent including for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, the Philippine Islands and Samoa.
Historical US Population 1850 - 1943: 13,120 - 21,990,710

Midori

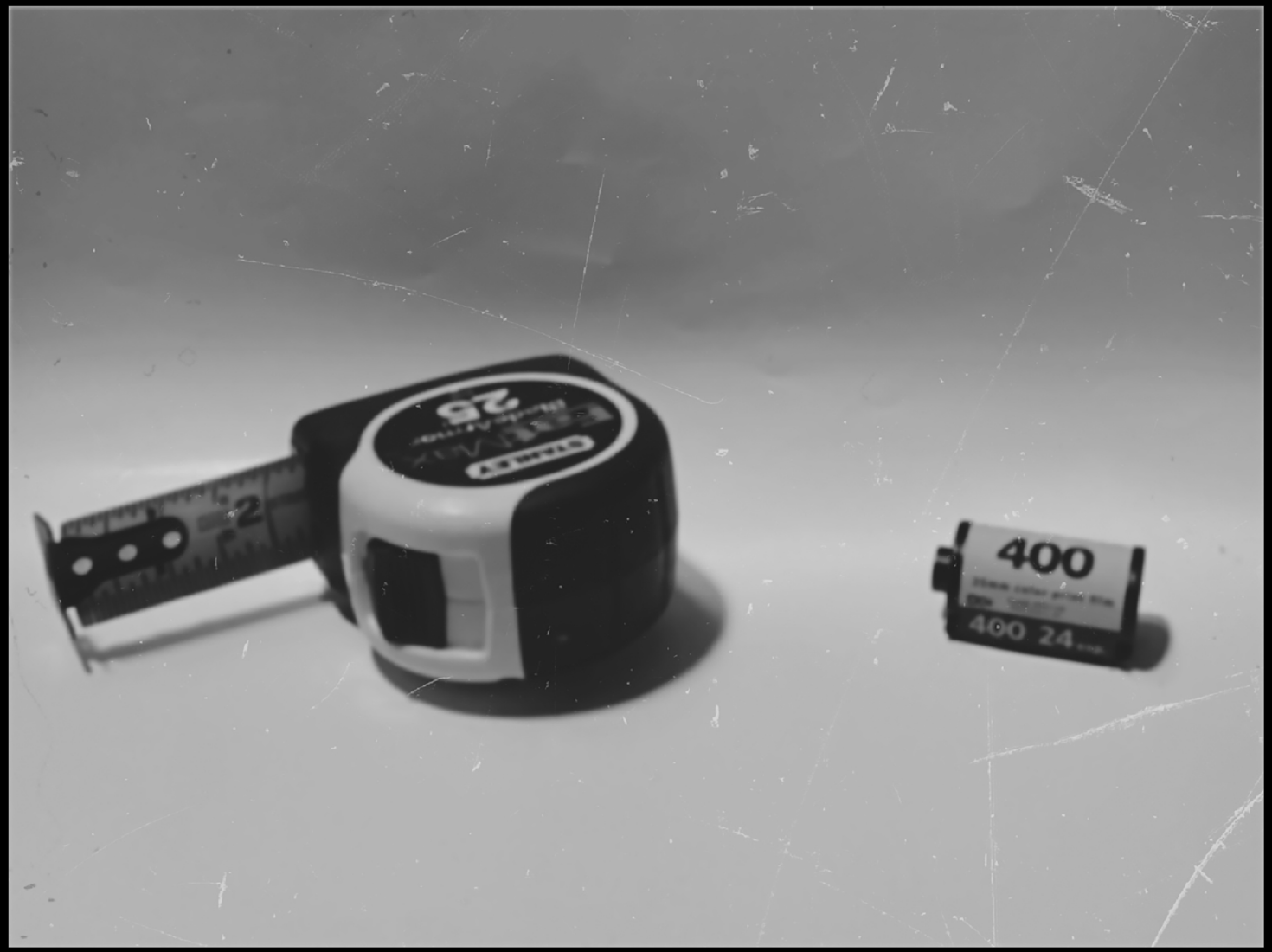
☒ Immigrant
☒ Queer

I am a Japanese-American interdisciplinary artist who explores the ambiguities of everyday life, labor, material culture, and distortion of memory. I focus on the mundane to reveal their uncanniness and illuminate the hidden beauty of discarded things. My research interweaves traditional craft techniques, deep inner dialogue, community engagement, and interviews to create performance, installation, and 2D works.

WEBSITE: www.PlanetMidori.com

INSTAGRAM: @PlanetMidori.Art

MORE: FB, YouTube, IG: @PlanetMidori



Are we in relationship, or
just next to each other?

Neut

Neut

☐ Immigrant
☒ Queer

Neut is a trans*disciplinary artist based in the San Francisco Bay Area. They are a nonbinary, mixed-race, invisibly disabled mutant with lived experience with migration. Subsequently they have countless questions surrounding the loosely defined term “human nature” – particularly how we conceive of such themes amid compounding Westernized crises unique to the 20th/21st Gregorian centuries. Their practice is unrestricted to specific modes of making or media, and they engage with whatever themes and concepts stoke the fires of creativity. In 2016 they received a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in Art Practices from Portland State University. Their work has been published in Pathos Literary Magazine, Oregon’s Best Emerging Poets (2017, 2019), 48 Hills, and Fools Journey, and displayed at the Saatchi Gallery in London, England, Arteles Creative Center in Hämeenkyrö, Finland, and in Portland at the Portland Institute for Contemporary Art, the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Littman Gallery, and the Holocene.

WEBSITE: http://neut.space
INSTAGRAM: @therealneut
MORE: http://neutwho.bandcamp.com

Nitya Narasimhan

Nitya Narasimhan

☒ Immigrant
☐ Queer

Nitya Narasimhan is an acclaimed Bharatanatyam artist currently based in California, USA. As the artistic director of “Prayukti Arts,” she actively fosters a community for Indian arts in the Bay Area, curating and facilitating educational initiatives, performance opportunities, and community based events. Nitya is currently pursuing advanced bharatanatyam training under Smt Shweta Prachande. Her initiation into bharatanatyam happened at the age of 4 and she spent her formative years learning under Guru Suma Mani, Chennai. Embracing dance professionally, she honed her skills further under the tutelage of Guru Rukmini Vijayakumar of Raadha Kalpa Dance Company in Bangalore. Her commitment to the art form extends beyond its technical aspects, encompassing its cultural and historical significance as well. With a deep understanding of the complex dynamics at play, she strives to honor the tradition while also pushing boundaries and exploring new possibilities. Through her approach, she embodies the spirit of innovation and evolution that is essential for any art form to thrive.

WEBSITE: www.prayuktiarts.org

INSTAGRAM: @nitnaras

MORE: My organization is called Prayukti Arts and we have a studio space based in Sunnyvale

Peter Max Lawrence

Peter Max Lawrence

☐ Immigrant
☒ Queer

Peter Max Lawrence is an artist, filmmaker and poet. Born in Topeka; adopted soon thereafter and raised in Kansas City, Kansas. Over the course of his life, he has created a large and diverse body of work, exploring a wide variety of approaches, media and themes including intimate experimental documentary projects as well as cosmic world building narratives and historical queer memory constructivism. Lawrence's visual art, performances and films have been presented internationally in venues ranging from basement bathrooms to major museums. Among some works of note are The Battle of the Last Goodbye, a massive installation composed of thousands of paintings, videos and sculptures situated among a collaborative two-person exhibition with Truong Tran at SOMArts, QUEER in KANSAS is his critically acclaimed short film that screened at several international film festivals and his Beyond Say Trilogy and expanded universe performances in Athens, Greece. Music videos directed by him include Carletta Sue Kay, Pookie and the Poodlez and Krystle Warren. He is currently rebuilding a small cabin and work studio on the wildfire burn scar property upon which his 30 year archive was incinerated in the 2018 Spring-Fire near La Veta Pass in Southern Colorado.

WEBSITE: www.petermaxlawrence.com
INSTAGRAM: @petermaxlawrence
MORE: www.youtube.com/@petermaxlawrence

Retura Claar

Retura Claar

☐ Immigrant
☒ Queer

Retura Claar is a designer and visual artist based in the high desert of Nevada. Her work explores color, form and texture inspired by mountain ranges and deserts across the West. She uses art as a vessel to explore the innate human connection to the natural world through a queer lens. Retura has shown art in group shows in San Francisco and Denver. Selected publications include photographs published in The Sunlight Press, Humana Obscura and Salome Magazine.

nonviolent communication
2023
experimental film photography

WEBSITE: www.returaclaarart.com
INSTAGRAM: @returaclaarart

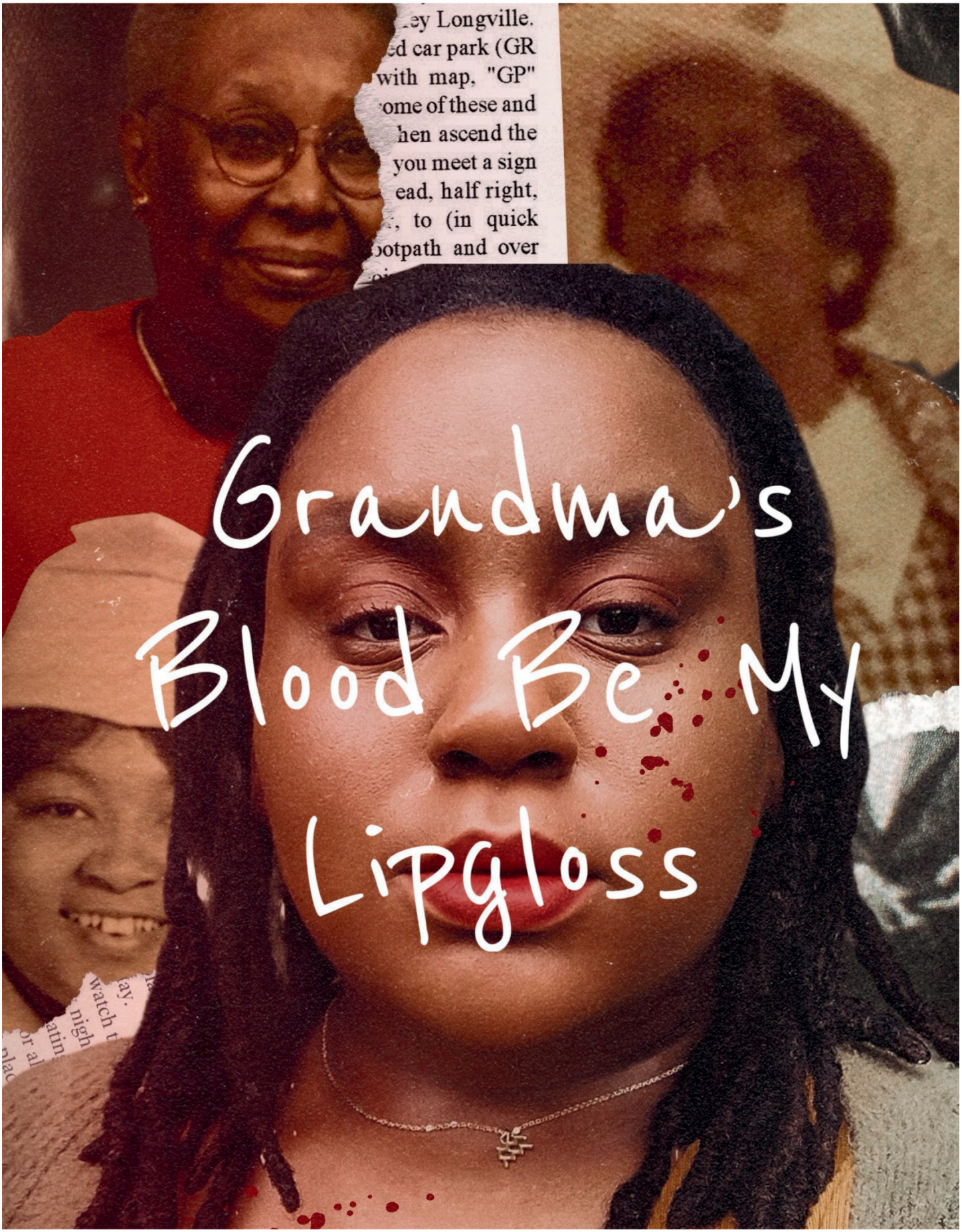
Rhea Joseph

Rhea Joseph

[X] Immigrant
[X] Queer

Rhea Joseph is a poet, curator, and event producer who comes from a family of artists and entrepreneurs. She finds power through community and can be found exploring the boundaries of art with experimental performances and unique collaborations. Rhea is currently working on her first book of poems. She is the COO of the new arts nonprofit Decentered Arts.

WEBSITE: www.decentered.org
INSTAGRAM: @rheality_check_
MORE: COO at Decentered Arts nonprofit



Sabriaya Shipley

Sabriaya Shipley

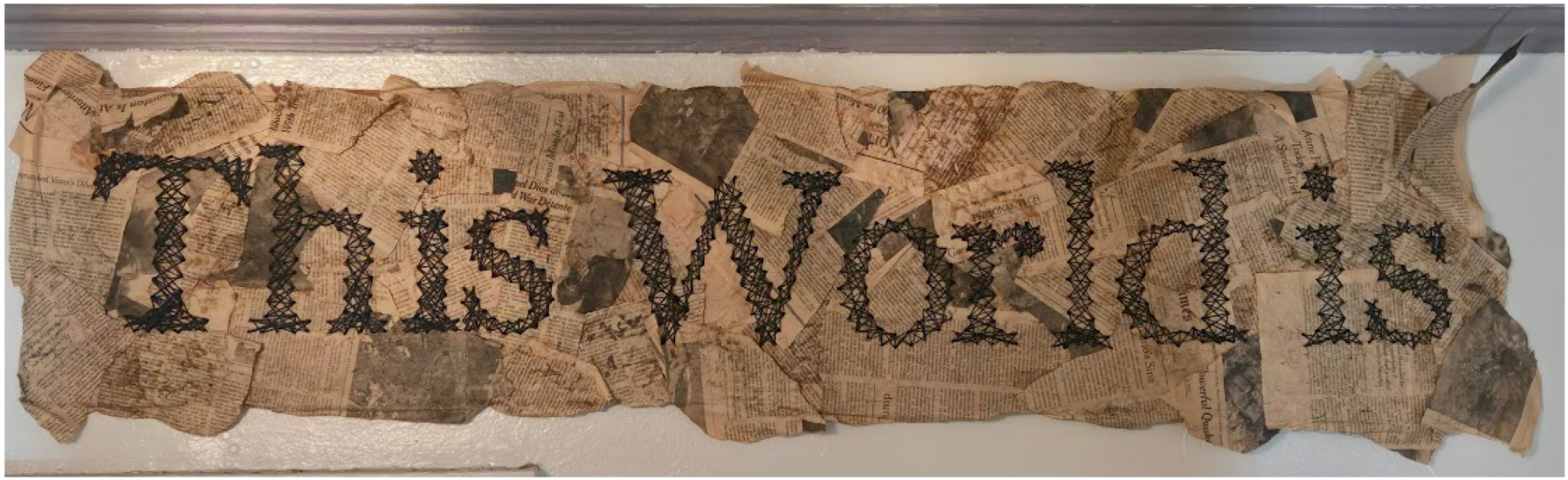
☐ Immigrant
☒ Queer

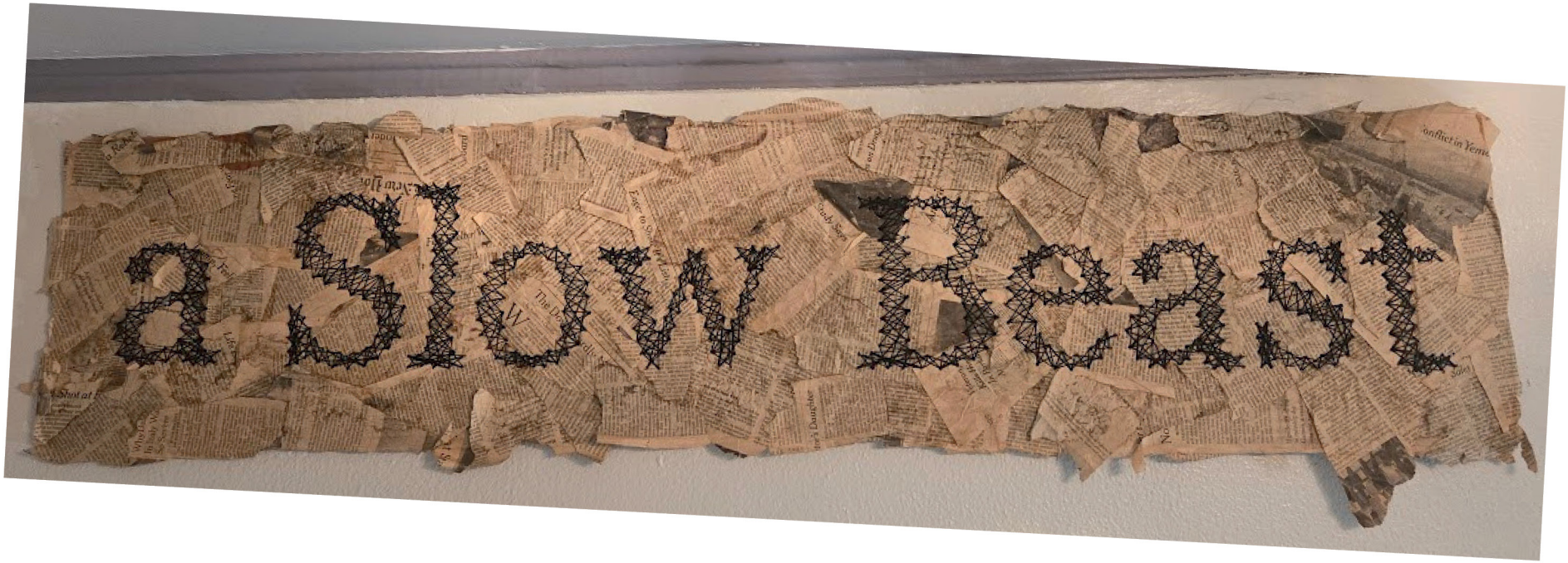
✎ Originally from Baltimore, Maryland, Sabriaya is a Philadelphia-based storyteller, educator, and community ethnographer determined to cultivate performance art and archival spaces centered around the expressive freedom of Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities both locally with organizations such as Artwell Philly, The Painted Bride Art Center, Power Street Theatre and internationally with Residency 11:11 in London and the Chateau Orquevaux Artist and Writers Residency in France. A recipient of the 2021-2022 Philadelphia Foundation and Forman Art's Initiative Art Works grant and the 2022-2023 Rosine 2.0 Past Visions/ Future Archives Micro-Grant, Sabriaya currently serves as the Executive Director of Theatre Philadelphia and looks forward to continuing to collaborate as an educator, artist, and artistic advisor in sustaining equitable and ancestral means of storytelling.

WEBSITE: https://sshipley.exposure.co/

INSTAGRAM: @ubuntusab, @somewherebetweengodmammy

MORE: www.sabriayashipley.com/, Chapbook: Somewhere Between God and Mammy





Scott Sessions

Scott Sessions

I am a queer community leader with great respect for the power of story and shared public narrative. As the historic and horrifying Trump campaign seized American attention in 2016, I turned to craft as a means of maintaining sanity. My embroidered “headline” is meant to serve as an antidote to the frenzied river of stories produced by mainstream and social media that pummel our eyes and minds every minute of every day (if we let them). While it is a civic duty to stay educated about current events, we cannot forget that it is the long and arduous movements of history which ultimately define a human life. Each panel is 44”x11” and is made with cardboard, newsprint, rubber cement, and black twine. The piece currently hangs in my living room in San Francisco, California.

WEBSITE: www.scottsessions.com

INSTAGRAM: @thescottsessions

MORE: Queer Bedtime Stories (@queerbedtime on Instagram)

somer taylor

somer taylor

☐ Immigrant
☒ Queer

somer taylor is an artist from the DMV, now living in Oakland. They first discovered their love of sculpture in college, their work focuses on the whimsy and absurdity of the queer black american experience. Scenes of intimate moments, horror, and plants are found throughout their work. Their passion for ceramics bloomed into a desire to create functional work for affordable prices and host accessible workshops for their community.

INSTAGRAM: @somervacation

MORE: look at some murals in the mission

Soni Laughlin

Soni Laughlin

☐ Immigrant
☒ Queer

Burlington, VT 2/27/23 My mom has always called me “Bunny”. When she was diagnosed with breast cancer all whilst her mother was dying my world had been flipped upside down. It made me question my identity as a daughter, and what it means to grow up and out of childhood.

WEBSITE: https://sites.google.com/view/sonisphotos/photos
INSTAGRAM: @sonisphotographs
MORE: www.linkedin.com/in/sonia-laughlin-26a390291/

ok urs

No wait. he is maimed

, they lie

To flame our ble eat and talks w ain.

turn ba the lock hen time's a y

ding! S and s lide, t ea

lips ex it m e; egg descends

hat? No gold?! u shriek (ick)

sno t u breathe must keep a

rooster crowing loud

No clue. Th is spoon. i d o use

ice d ates. I wan e at sea

u can burn the ants h ue

marr y? Co n s ams. ill

member k? No own The end w ill.

Stellan Knowles

Stellan Knowles

☐ Immigrant
☒ Queer

Stellan Knowles (he/him) is a Black trans creative from Memphis, TN. His work includes the story “The Runaway” (recently published in the Trans Anthology Project) and “Pride,” a poem published in Future Perfect Project’s upcoming anthology. Stellan also enjoys playwriting and media creation.

Poem: “OK urs”

INSTAGRAM: @stellanspeaks

MORE: The Trans Anthology Project, Trans Mentor Project Zines

Kali stuck out her tongue one day

and lashed the man who violated
the body of a woman in bloom
or so she was until…
That lashing
destroyed the man for all to see
and in his place grew a banyan tree
how many days? It took just three
the same number for Christ to raise

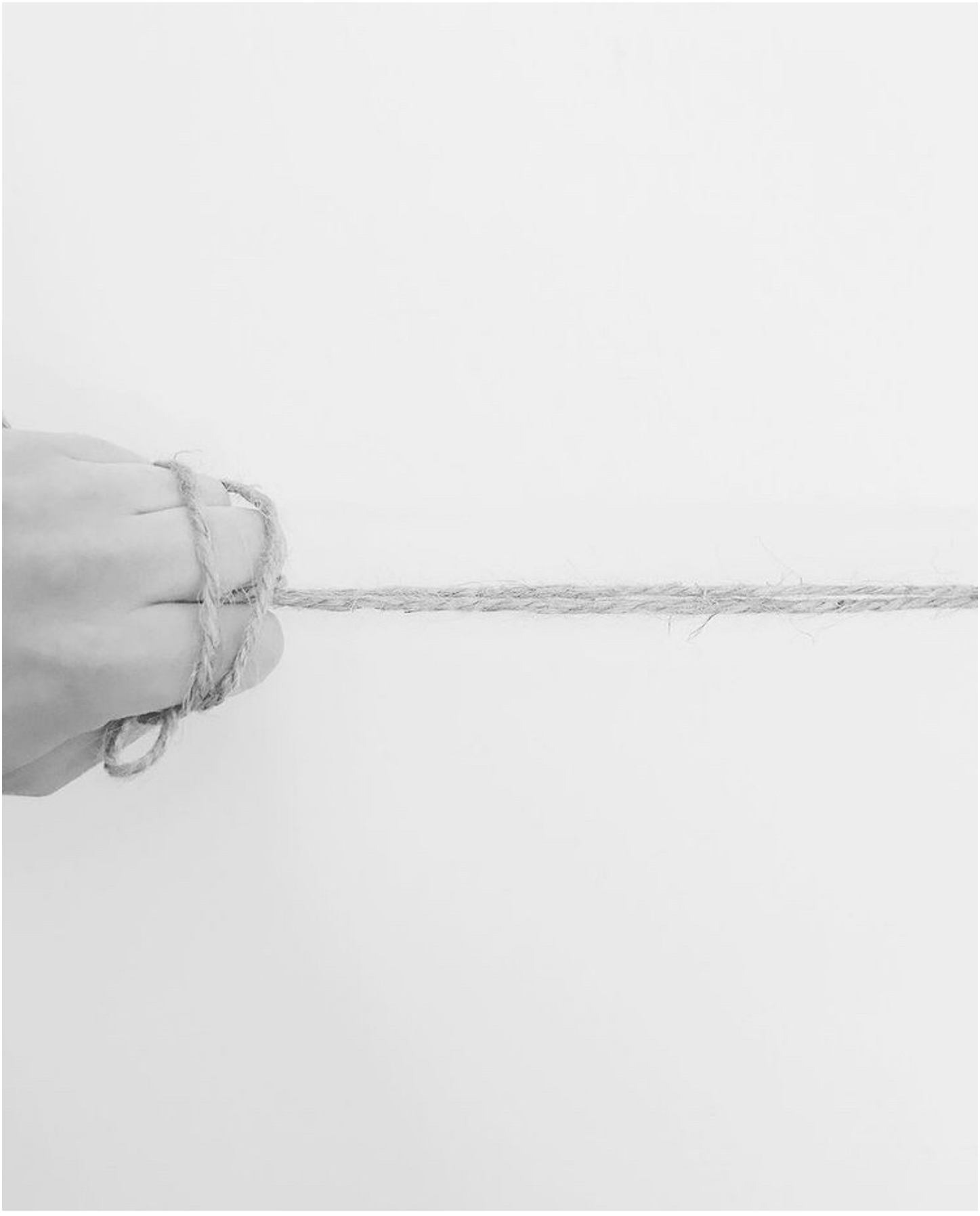
Taneesh Kaur

Taneesh Kaur

☒ Immigrant
☐ Queer

Taneesh Kaur (“Core”) is a US-born Punjabi teaching artist based in San Francisco, a social justice advocate who uses nature to understand and dismantle systems of mental and physical oppression. Her visual art has been shown in galleries throughout California, and has received praise from the International Luxembourg Art Prize for 2022 and 2023. Her poetry has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize, and appears in international journals and anthologies, most recently in great weather for MEDIA’s Beacon Radiant. Her full-length collection, Thawing: A Poetic Memoir, is out now from Collapse Press. Taneesh has a Master’s in Linguistics from San Francisco State University, with training abroad in Mexico and Chile. She is currently an MFA Candidate in Poetry at University of San Francisco. See more of her work in English and Spanish at http://www.TaneeshCantos.com.

WEBSITE: www.TaneeshCantos.com
INSTAGRAM: @TaneeshCantos
MORE: Thawing: A Poetic Memoir



Taryn Kearns

Taryn Kearns

☐ Immigrant
☒ Queer

✎ Taryn Kearns is a queer photographer based in Oakland, CA. She's inspired by urban architecture, street art, found objects, and preservation of memory.

INSTAGRAM: @hawtfruit

Vera Ostroumova

Vera Ostroumova

☒ Immigrant
☐ Queer

This photograph was taken near SF City Hall in January 2023 during the protest by the Russian community against Russia's invasion of Ukraine and for liberation of Russian political prisoners.

> *The Russian community in the Bay Area opposes the criminal war in Ukraine and supports political prisoners*
> January 21, 2024

NA

Box

the box of remembrances kept
from the time before it all fell apart
taped tightly to keep from bursting open
transported to each new living space

and

needing to move it aside
to find something else stored away
you lifted it
and you noticed
it was much lighter than you once remembered

Vic Welle

Vic Welle

☐ Immigrant
☒ Queer

Vic Welle is an activist, psychiatric survivor, and care worker reclaiming non-carceral, community-based healing practices.

WEBSITE: vicwelle.com

INSTAGRAM: @vic_generic

MORE: http://linktr.ee/vicwelle

Wang Yiming

Wang Yiming

☒ Immigrant
☒ Queer

✎ I was wondering what my classmates were talking about, what's the so-called "event." Something is wrong when a senior student from a prestigious high school has to resort to Wikipedia for a good chunk of contemporary Chinese history. I knew my school owed me a good story of our past, at least not good enough; or, I owe that to myself. You've Once Said..... is a self-educational project exploring the legacy, burden, and retrospective inspirations of recent Chinese history. I incorporated found literature and news footage to augment found vernacular photographs people at the time chose to record and remember. The artist Wang Yiming comes from a Chinese immigrant family and grew up in Mainland China. Yiming's practice involves exploration of his family origin, experience living in both countries, storytelling, and his interest of the past. He is a member of the newly formed artist group Yangzi-Jin Collective.

You've Once Said.....
2024
Digital, scanned overlay of xeroxed found family photos

WEBSITE: http://yangzijin.wordpress.com
INSTAGRAM: @yzj_collective
MORE: http://archive.org/details/@yangzi-jin_collective

طنز

واسع

Wasay

☒ Immigrant
☒ Queer

✎ Wasay (they/them) is a poet, dancer, and witch based in San Francisco who grew up in Pakistan, Benin, and Uganda. Wasay sees poetry as a personal and collective archive, using words to capture time, space, and emotion for future reflection. Their poetry explores themes of queerness, spirituality, and nature.

Providing a bit more context: The art work writes out the word Gandu in urdu script that loosely translates to Faggot (وڈنااگ). I use a picture of myself in bondage for the letter و.

INSTAGRAM: @awasay

YouBeen Kim

YouBeen Kim

[X] Immigrant
[X] Queer

Originally from Seoul, South Korea, YouBeen Kim immigrated to the United States at the age of 16 in pursuit of a better education leaving her single mother behind in Korea. YouBeen faced culture shock as she landed in Utah, then finishing her high school years in Illinois. Struggling to communicate with people due to the language barrier, she turned to art as a means of expression and began creating landscapes and portraits to connect with others and ease her homesickness and loneliness. Ultimately settling in California to further develop her artistic talents, she graduated from the Academy of Art University with a bachelor's degree in Fine Art Painting in 2015. Her work has continued to evolve and reflect her life experiences, exploring her Korean heritage and how being in America has added dimension to further shape that. Whether they are American pop star portraits, abstract expressionist paintings using Korean colors or literally her own self-portrait, all of these speak to the multi-faceted aspects of her identity.

WEBSITE: www.youbeenkim.com
INSTAGRAM: @youbeen.kim
MORE: Faultline Artspace

This catalog was designed & produced by Jason Wyman / Queerly Complex.
w w w . q u e e r l y c o m p l e x . c o m